

GREATER
MANCHESTER'S
PAST REVEALED
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GREENGATE

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SALFORD'S HISTORIC CORE



Location of Salford, and the site of One Greengate

FOREWORD

The historic medieval core of Salford has been so altered that only its street pattern survives as a ghost of the triangular-shaped settlement that grew up in a meander of the River Irwell. It is now hard to believe that Salford received its Borough Charter in 1230, 70 years before Manchester, and that it was a royal manor, and also that there were still many ancient timber-framed buildings lining its principal thoroughfares of Greengate and Chapel Street in the late nineteenth century. Industrial-period railways, factories and workers' housing had a major impact on the character of the historic settlement, whilst industrial decline in the second half of the twentieth century brought widespread demolition.

In the absence of surviving early buildings, archaeology has shed light on Salford's historic development. Numerous archaeological excavations have been undertaken ahead of major regeneration developments, which have provided a fascinating insight into Salford's past. Evidence of medieval property boundaries and rubbish pits, former building footings and floors, artefacts, and industrial processes tell the story of Salford's transformation from a small medieval borough to a major industrial centre in the nineteenth century. In this volume in the *Greater Manchester's Past Revealed* series, the results of OA North's important excavation and historical research at the development site of One Greengate are presented, together with evidence from other recent investigations in Salford's historic core.

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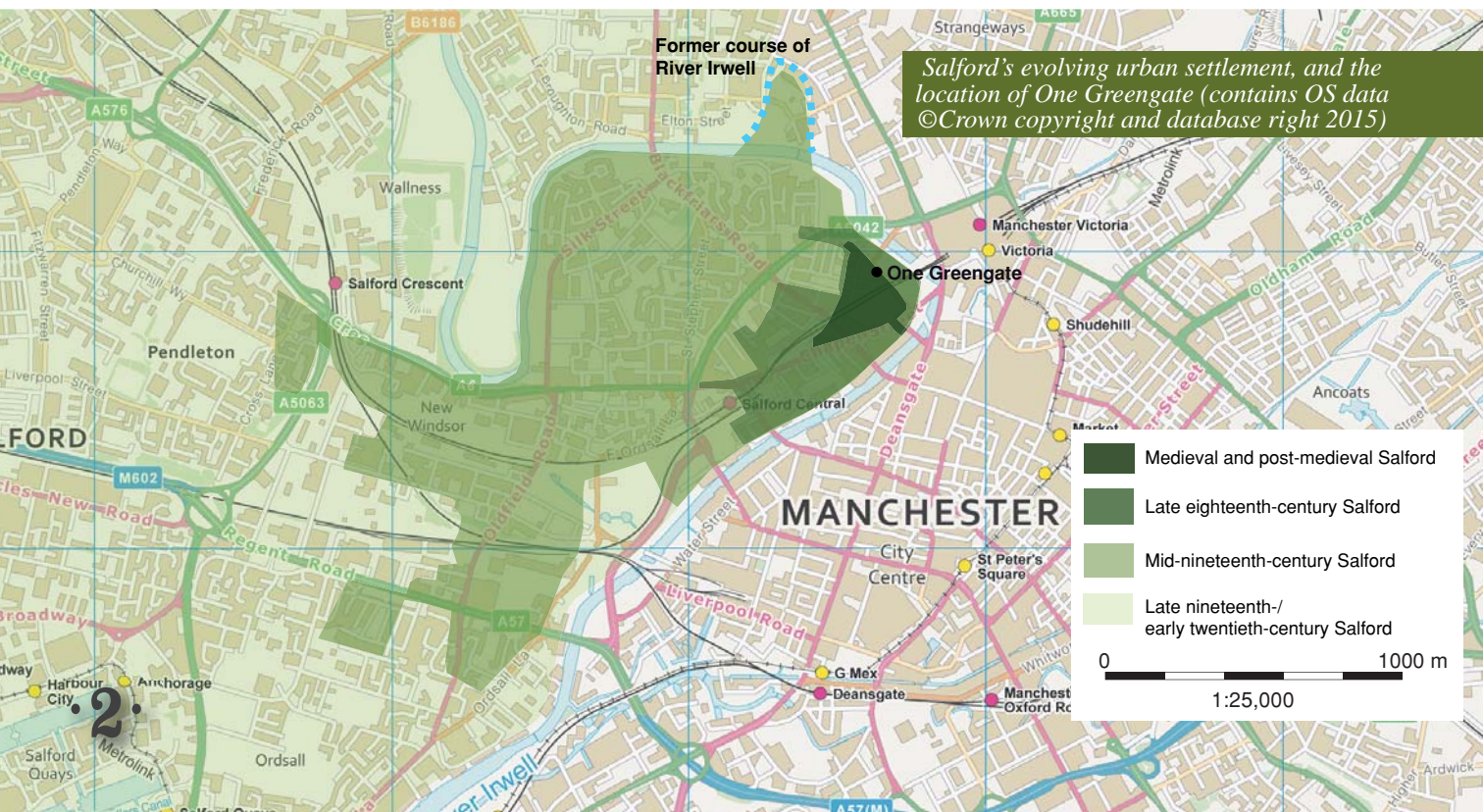
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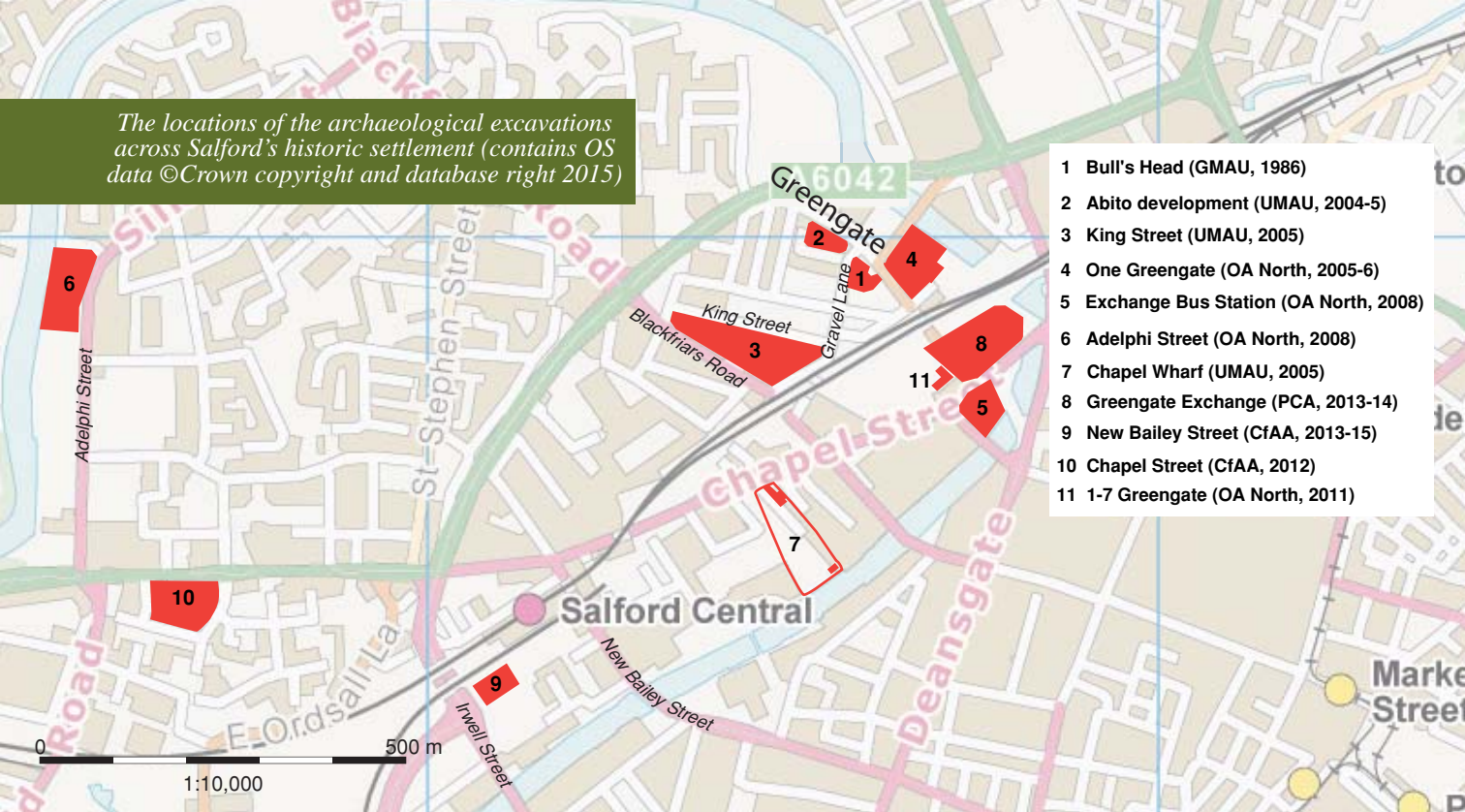
INTRODUCTION

The heart of historic Salford occupies the north bank of the River Irwell, which forms a natural boundary between Salford and its sister settlement, Manchester. The site of the early town lies on a slightly elevated sandstone plateau, covered by glacial gravels and clays, and is close to the confluence of the rivers Irwell and Irk. It was arranged around the three principal streets of Greengate, Chapel Street, and Gravel Lane, which survive as important present-day thoroughfares.

From the late 1770s onwards, the town underwent a period of pronounced growth, associated with the rise of industrialisation across the wider region. This involved the construction of houses, industrial buildings, and new routes of communication within Salford's historic core, and also across agricultural land on the fringe of the urban area. Expansion continued southwards along Chapel Street, with Irwell Street forming its southern limit. More rapid growth occurred in the early nineteenth century, and by the 1840s the whole area bounded by a broad meander of the River Irwell had been built upon. By the end of the century, Salford's urban area had merged with Pendleton to the west, and had subsumed Broughton to the north. The completion of the Manchester Ship Canal and the associated Salford Quays in 1894 stimulated a further expansion of the town to the south-west. Salford was granted city status in 1926, and its current boundaries were fixed in 1972.



The locations of the archaeological excavations across Salford's historic settlement (contains OS data ©Crown copyright and database right 2015)



- 1 Bull's Head (GMAU, 1986)
- 2 Abito development (UMAU, 2004-5)
- 3 King Street (UMAU, 2005)
- 4 One Greengate (OA North, 2005-6)
- 5 Exchange Bus Station (OA North, 2008)
- 6 Adelphi Street (OA North, 2008)
- 7 Chapel Wharf (UMAU, 2005)
- 8 Greengate Exchange (PCA, 2013-14)
- 9 New Bailey Street (CfAA, 2013-15)
- 10 Chapel Street (CfAA, 2012)
- 11 1-7 Greengate (OA North, 2011)

Parts of Salford have been subjected to archaeological excavation over the last four decades. These excavations have tended to focus on its historic core, the heart of the medieval and post-medieval settlement, and have provided valuable insights into the development and growth of the early town. Important evidence of the industrial-era town, which still exerts a strong influence on Salford's urban character, has also been uncovered.

The earliest of these excavations was carried out in 1986 as part of the 'Salford Heritage Project', set up by the former Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU). This provided an archaeological training programme for long-term unemployed residents of the city, and investigated the site of the Bull's Head public house on the north-western side of Greengate. The cellars of this building were revealed, together with the remains of several other nineteenth-century buildings, and artefacts dating from the Roman period through to the twentieth century.

Excavating the site of the Bull's Head in 1986 (GMAU Archive)





Excavation at the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane in 2005 (GMAU Archive)

Building on the success of the excavation at the Bull's Head, several archaeological investigations have been carried out across central Salford by professional archaeologists, usually in advance of new development. The first of these was carried out in 2004-5 by the former University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU), and was focused on a plot of land close to the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane, in advance of the Abito development. This involved an initial programme of trial

trenching, followed by a larger-scale excavation. Significant archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods were uncovered, together with evidence for the development of Salford in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Two other large-scale excavations in the centre of Salford were also initiated in 2005. One of these, again undertaken by UMAU, examined an area adjacent to Gravel Lane, between Blackfriar's Road and King Street. Whilst no early remains were present, important evidence relating to Salford's late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century industry was discovered.

The second excavation within Salford's historic core commencing in 2005 was carried out by OA North, and investigated the site that has been developed as One Greengate. This was initiated prior to the proposed construction of two multi-storey apartment blocks, then known as the Greengate Towers. Following an initial phase of trial trenching that confirmed the survival of buried archaeological remains, a large-scale excavation was implemented. This produced significant evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity, including one of the largest and most important collections of post-medieval pottery sherds to be recovered from an excavation in Greater Manchester. Fascinating remains dating to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were also revealed, providing an insight into the development of the industrial-era town.

Recording the building remains within a trial trench excavated at One Greengate



Other archaeological projects that have been completed in Salford include an investigation of the former Exchange Bus Station on Chapel Street. This site was occupied by Salford's Woollen Cloth Hall in the early nineteenth century, the remains of which were discovered during the excavation. This work followed a larger excavation by OA North in 2008, which targeted the site of a dye works on Adelphi Street, on the western edge of the early nineteenth-century town. Extensive remains of the dye works were uncovered, together with a row of workers' houses, and hugely significant evidence for a clay tobacco-pipe workshop.



Aerial view of the Adelphi Street area in the 1930s, showing the area of archaeological investigation in 2008

Other notable archaeological investigations include those carried out by the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) as part of the Salford Central major regeneration project, which enabled an area of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century workers' housing on Chapel Street to be excavated, together with the site of the former New Bailey Prison on New Bailey Street. Most recently, Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) commenced an excavation beneath the arches of the viaducts that carry the disused Exchange Railway Station over Greengate.



Another area that has been examined archaeologically is Chapel Wharf, which lies between Chapel Street and the River Irwell, immediately to the south-west of Salford's historic core. UMAU completed a series of excavations of this site, and uncovered remains spanning the late medieval period to the nineteenth century.

This booklet aims to present the exciting findings from these archaeological investigations. Whilst an emphasis has been placed on the site of One Greengate, the results arising from other projects are drawn upon to provide a more comprehensive overview of the city's rich archaeology and heritage.

Clowes Street, Chapel Wharf, during excavation in 2007 (GMAU Archive)

SALFORD'S EARLY HISTORY

Several artefacts discovered on the Manchester side of the River Irwell point to human activity in this area during the Mesolithic (*c* 8000 BC to *c* 4000 BC) and Neolithic (*c* 4000 BC to *c* 2500 BC) periods, and also during the Bronze and Iron Ages (*c* 2500 BC to AD 70s). These find-spots are concentrated in two places: Castlefield, where Mesolithic to Bronze Age stone tools, and Bronze or Iron Age pottery have been found; and in the vicinity of Manchester Cathedral. In this latter area, Bronze Age metalwork has been discovered that appeared to have been placed within a small natural watercourse, perhaps for ritual purposes.

The location of these few finds suggest that prehistoric activity was confined to the higher and better-drained areas overlooking the River Irwell. In contrast, the land on the Salford side of the Irwell is lower-lying, and may have been less attractive to prehistoric people. This said, some limited evidence for their presence has been found to the south of the city centre, between East Ordsall Lane and the River Irwell, where several potential Neolithic stone tools have been recorded by antiquarians. However, the precise finds spots are uncertain, and it is possible that they were actually recovered from Woden's Cave, a site that lies further to the south-west. More recently, a fragment of worked flint discovered during the excavation at One Greengate provides good evidence for prehistoric tool use in Salford.



A large Roman settlement developed on the Manchester side of the Irwell from the end of the first century AD. This was focused on the Roman fort of *Mamucium* within modern Castlefield. Archaeological excavation has shown that this fort was built of turf and timber in the late first century, and that it housed a 480-man infantry unit. It was enlarged in the second century and rebuilt in stone in *c* AD 200. Outside the defences of the fort, archaeological excavation has uncovered the remains of a substantial settlement that housed a largely civilian population. This settlement was occupied until the early third century AD.



Reconstruction of Roman Manchester (GMAU Archive)

A series of Roman roads connected *Mamucium* with other Roman forts and settlements across the region. One of these roads linked the forts at Manchester and Ribchester, and this followed the course of modern Deansgate, and then continued through Broughton, approximately along the line of Bury New Road. Another Roman road linked Manchester and Wigan, on a line on the Salford side of the Irwell. Parts of this road, close to the modern line of Eccles Old Road, were visible as a linear earthwork in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, its precise course closer to the River Irwell is not known, though it is possible that it led to a fording point, known as Woden's Ford.

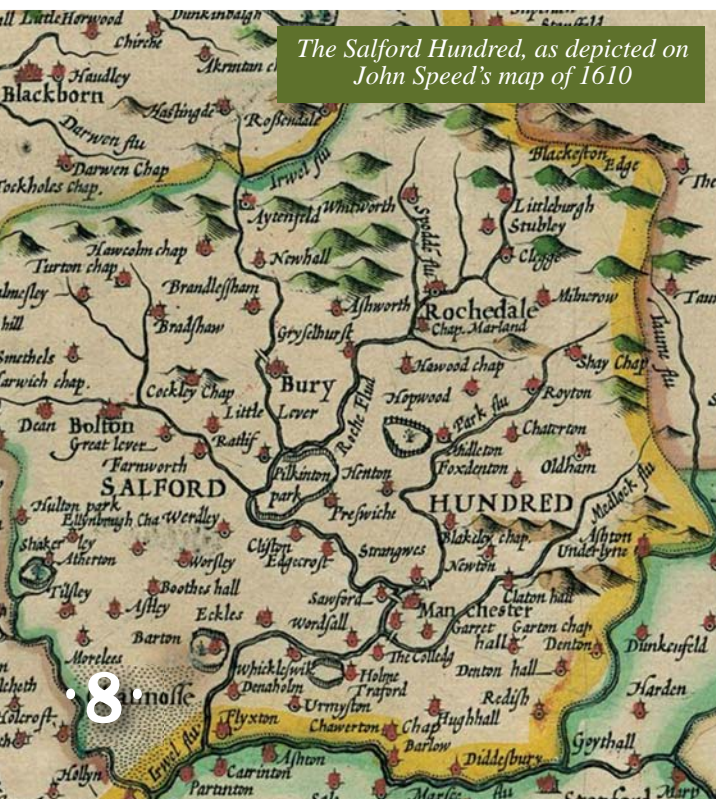
Although Salford lies beyond the edge of the Roman settlement, and is also some distance from the associated main roads, some evidence for human activity during this period has been discovered. Fragments of Roman pottery, including a sherd made in Peterborough, was found during the excavation at One Greengate, and fragments from a mortarium bowl, used for pounding and mixing food, were recovered from the excavation at the adjacent Bull's Head site on Greengate in 1986. Although these fragments were retrieved from nineteenth-century features, they nevertheless point to low-level Roman activity in Salford.

MEDIEVAL SALFORD

The Medieval Town

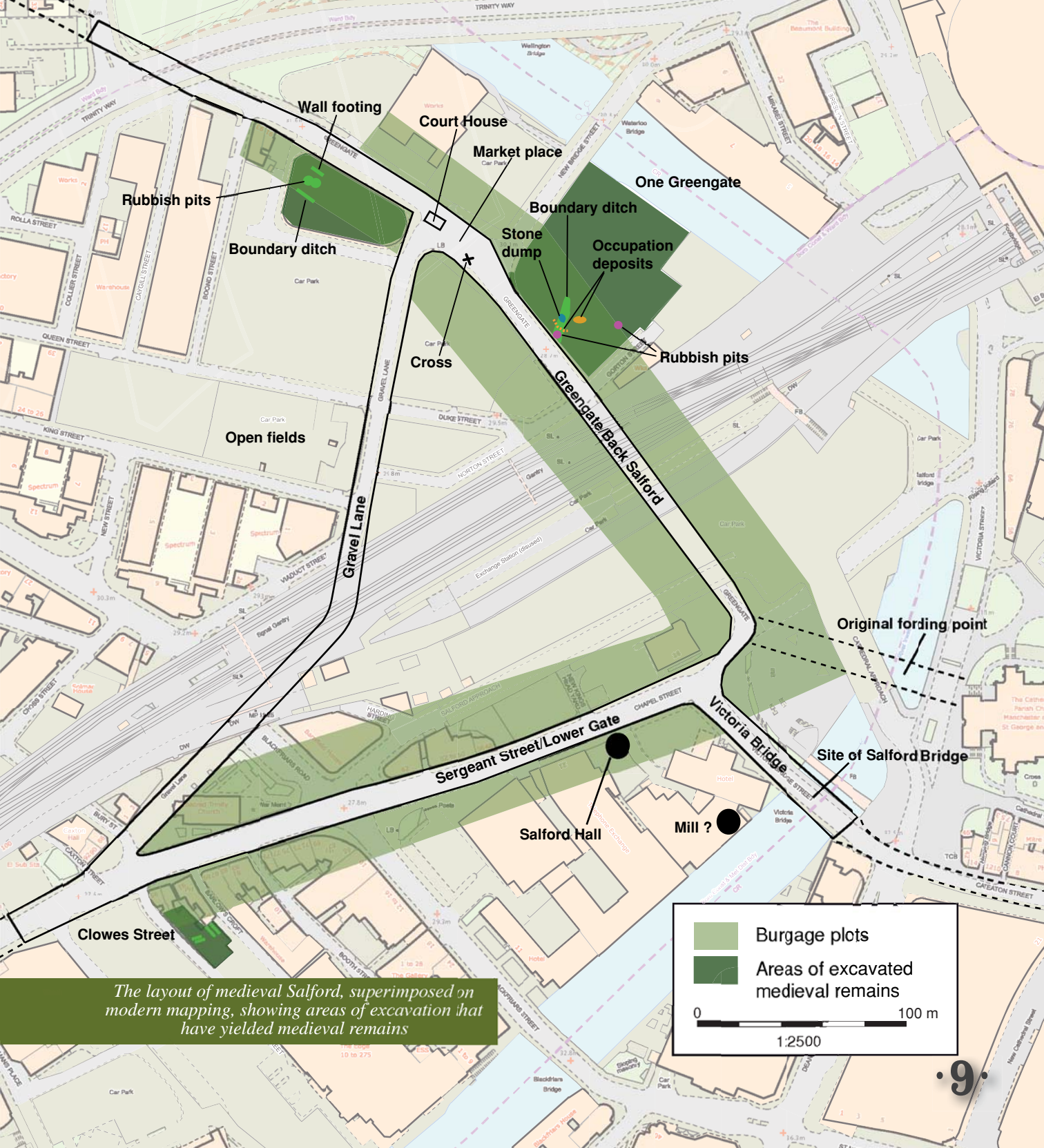
The character of occupation across most of north-west England during the early medieval period (mid-fifth to eleventh century AD) remains indistinct. This period is often referred to as the 'Dark Ages', reflecting the paucity of literary and cultural output from Western Europe as a whole, and was characterised by the decay of the established urban centres, with the abandonment of large-scale industrial production. Physical evidence for this period in Salford is virtually non-existent, although its name appears to be Old English in origin, and may be translated as 'the ford by the willow trees'. It is likely that this ford lay close to the present-day Victoria Bridge, on the eastern side of Salford's historic core.

Prior to the Norman Conquest in 1066, Salford was held by the king as a royal manor, and formed the principal administrative centre for a larger region referred to as the Hundred of Salford. It will almost certainly have contained a royal hall, and this may well have stood on the southern side of Chapel Street to the west of the fording point across the River Irwell. This site was occupied in later centuries by Salford/Byrom Hall, part of which was known subsequently as the Fisherman's Hut. It is not clear, however, whether this hall stood in isolation, or if it lay within a small settlement.



Following the Norman Conquest of 1066, William I granted the Salford Hundred to Roger de Poitou. The Salford Hundred was at that time divided into 11 parishes, which comprised Ashton, Bolton, Bury, Deane, Eccles, Flixton, Manchester, Middleton, Prestwich-cum-Oldham, Radcliffe and Rochdale.

In the early thirteenth century, Salford was established as an official town and was granted market status by Henry III in 1228, whilst in 1230, Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, granted the settlement its borough charter. However, in 1399, Salford was returned to the Crown as part of the Duchy of Lancaster, when Henry, Duke of Lancaster, became King Henry IV, and the Queen today retains the distinction of being the Lady of the Manor of Salford.



The layout of medieval Salford, superimposed on modern mapping, showing areas of excavation that have yielded medieval remains



The layout of streets in the centre of Salford, as shown on Tinker's map of 1772, probably reflects the street pattern that had existed since the medieval period

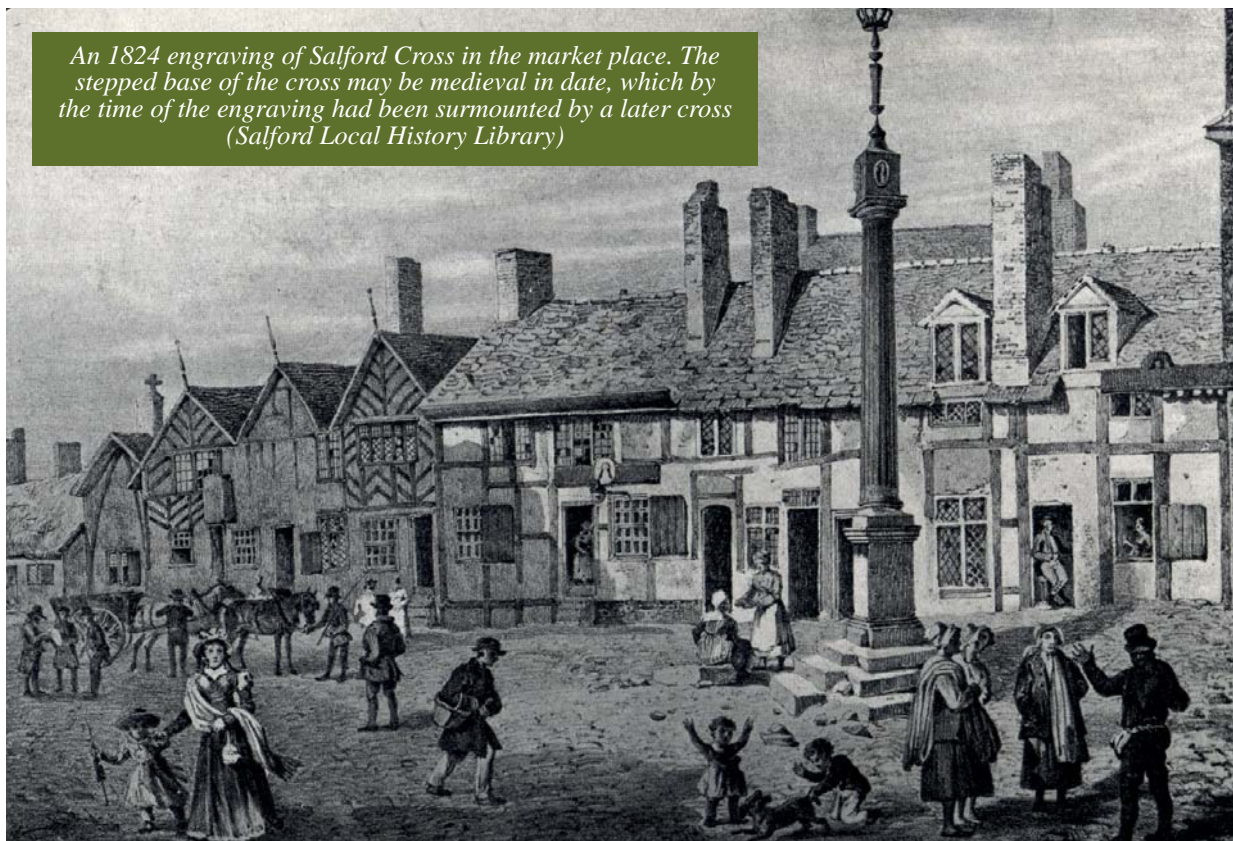
The people living in Salford in the medieval period were known as burgesses, who each held a small plot of land, called a burgage, which was usually enclosed within a boundary. Some of these plots also contained a dwelling, whilst others were just used for horticulture. A survey of 1346 indicates that there were about 129 burgages in Salford, which were held by 52 individuals. This implies a population of between 200 and 300 people.

The medieval town also contained a market place, a mill that was owned by the lord of the manor, where the burgesses were obliged to have their corn ground, and also the lord's bakehouse, where any bread sold by the burgesses had to be baked. Access to the medieval town from the Manchester side of the River Irwell was probably via

Salford Bridge, which crossed the river at the point occupied today by Victoria Bridge. Salford Bridge is known to have been in existence by 1226, and replaced the earlier fording point. This bridge was almost certainly constructed in timber initially, although it was later rebuilt in stone. A small chapel had been erected on a pier supporting the Salford side of the bridge by the early fourteenth century.

An idea of the form and layout of the medieval town can be gleaned from historical sources, particularly early maps. These suggest that the medieval town was arranged around two principal routes that converged on the early fording point. These routes were later known as Greengate (also known as Back Salford) and Chapel Street (formerly named Sergeant Street, and also Lower Gate), and eighteenth-century mapping suggests that they were partly fronted by the town's burgage plots.

An 1824 engraving of Salford Cross in the market place. The stepped base of the cross may be medieval in date, which by the time of the engraving had been surmounted by a later cross (Salford Local History Library)

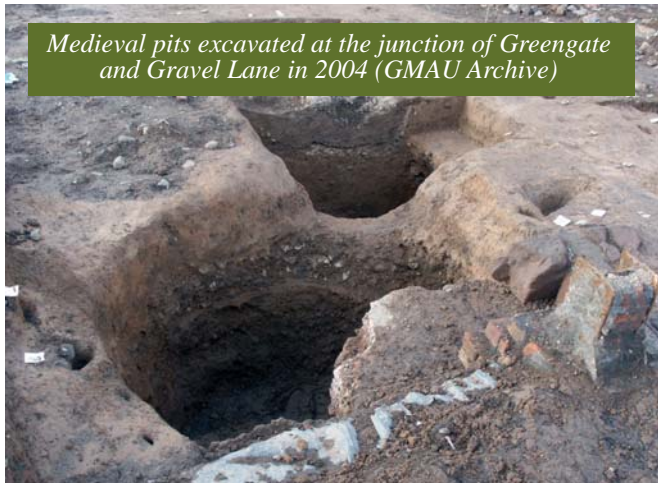


A third street, known as Gravel Lane, is also marked on the early maps, although this was perhaps created at a slightly later date. It appears that some of the town's medieval open fields lay immediately to the west of Gravel Lane. These probably contained small strips of agricultural land that were grouped into furlongs. The positions of some of these strips are fossilised as field boundaries shown on late eighteenth-century mapping.

The market will have been a focus of the medieval settlement, and was possibly located originally at the junction of Greengate and Chapel Street. At some stage, perhaps during the late medieval period, it was relocated further north along Greengate. This involved widening part of the street to create the rectangular market place shown on historical mapping. Gravel Lane may have been developed at this time, providing access to the market from Chapel Lane. The medieval market place also contained a cross, which was set on a square, stepped base, as depicted on early illustrations. The manorial mill will have been located on the bank of the River Irwell, close to Salford Bridge and Salford Hall, but the location of the medieval bakehouse is unknown.

The Archaeology of Medieval Salford

Important detail of the character of medieval Salford has been furnished by archaeological excavations. The investigation of three sites in particular has provided significant evidence for life in medieval Salford. The first of these sites at the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane was excavated in 2004-5 as part of the Abito development, and revealed two large pits that contained medieval domestic waste. These pits were probably dug at the rear of a medieval property fronting Greengate, the remains of which had been destroyed entirely during the construction of later buildings.



Medieval pits excavated at the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane in 2004 (GMAU Archive)

The excavated pits contained fragments of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pottery, suggesting that this area was occupied shortly after the town had acquired market status. They also contained a rich collection of waterlogged plant remains, including weeds that normally grow on waste ground or garden plots, and also the seeds of edible plants such as sloe, elder, and hazelnut. Evidence of arable weeds, including fat hen, corn marigold, and wild radish, was also recovered, suggesting that the pits had been used for

the disposal of crop-processing waste. One also contained an extremely rare archer's bracer made of leather that had been cut from the sole of a medieval shoe.

Significant evidence for medieval Salford was also recovered from an excavation on the site of One Greengate, which lies on the northern side of Greengate. The earliest remains included a ditch, which had probably formed a boundary between two burgrave plots. Fragments of thirteenth-century pottery were recovered from this ditch, indicating that the burgrave plots had formed an early component of the medieval town.



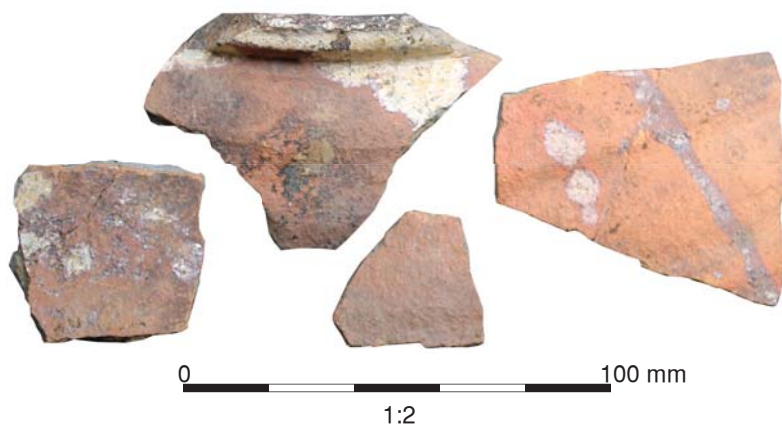
Leather archer's bracer

The ditch had evidently become filled by the end of the fourteenth century, implying that a marked boundary was no longer necessary. This may suggest that the site had been abandoned, perhaps reflecting a reduction in the local population in the wake of the devastation caused by the Black Death in the mid-fourteenth century. However, evidence for slightly later medieval activity was provided by a layer containing fragments of fifteenth-century pottery, a small rubbish pit, and a spread of stones, which may have formed part of a yard surface. Significantly, these features overlay the boundary ditch, indicating that there had been a reorganisation of the Greengate burgages during the fifteenth century.



A view across the site of One Greengate, with the medieval boundary ditch in the foreground

The fragments of medieval pottery from the excavation were derived from jugs and bulbous jars, typical of this period. Clear differences in the composition and colour of the clay used to make these vessels were discerned, enabling the material to be divided into five main fabric groups. Most of the thirteenth- and fourteenth-century fragments had probably been made locally, whilst some of the later material is likely to have been imported from the Midlands or North Wales.

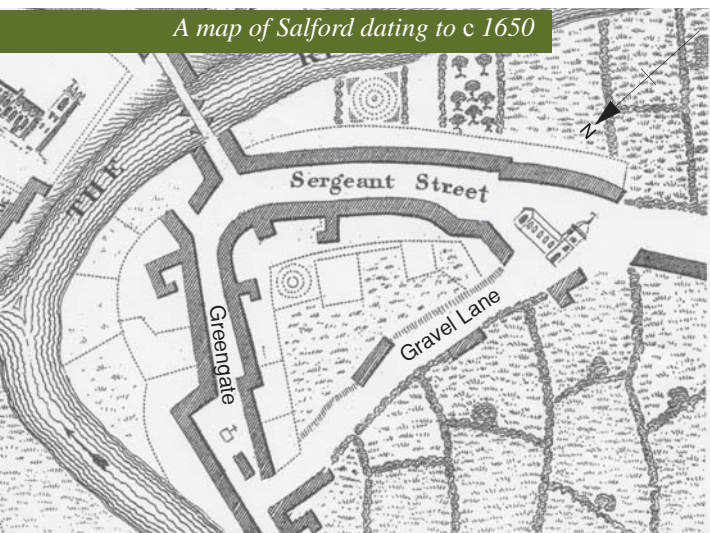


Fragments of medieval pottery have also been recovered from Clowes Street, on the south-western edge of Salford's historic core. Excavation there also revealed elements of two ditches, which probably defined a medieval burgrave plot. An extensive plough-soil was identified beyond these, suggesting that this area had been agricultural land on the fringe of the medieval settlement.

Fragments of jugs and jars, dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, recovered from the site of One Greengate

POST-MEDIEVAL SALFORD

A map of Salford dating to c 1650



The Post-medieval Town (1540 to 1770)

It is possible to deduce the character of post-medieval Salford from historical documents, early maps, and also the few early illustrations and photographs. One valuable source is a map of Salford, produced around 1650, which allows an insight into the layout of the seventeenth-century town. This appears to show continuous ranges of properties lining both sides of Chapel Street and Greengate, and also the approach to Salford Bridge, which was later known as Old Bridge Street. In contrast, properties are largely absent from Gravel Lane, with only four isolated blocks of buildings depicted.

Other features plotted on this map include the Sacred Trinity Church, built in 1635, which still stands at the junction of Chapel Street and Gravel Lane. The construction of this significant building, which was Salford's first church, was funded by Humphrey Booth, one of the town's prominent seventeenth-century residents. He was a wealthy merchant clothier and woollen manufacturer, who also set up a charitable trust for the poor of Salford.

The Sacred Trinity Church at the junction of Chapel Street and Gravel Lane



Several of the late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century buildings that had lined Salford's principal thoroughfares during this period were still standing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By this date, many were in use as public houses, commercial concerns, or had been divided into smaller dwellings, and some formed the subjects of illustrations and photographs. Taken together, these show that the typical post-medieval building in Salford was of a low timber-framed construction. Notable examples included the Bull's Head on Greengate, and the Fisherman's Hut on Chapel Street.



The former Bull's Head public house on Greengate, which was demolished in 1935, as photographed in 1929. This building exhibits two different types of timber-frame construction, (Salford Local History Library)

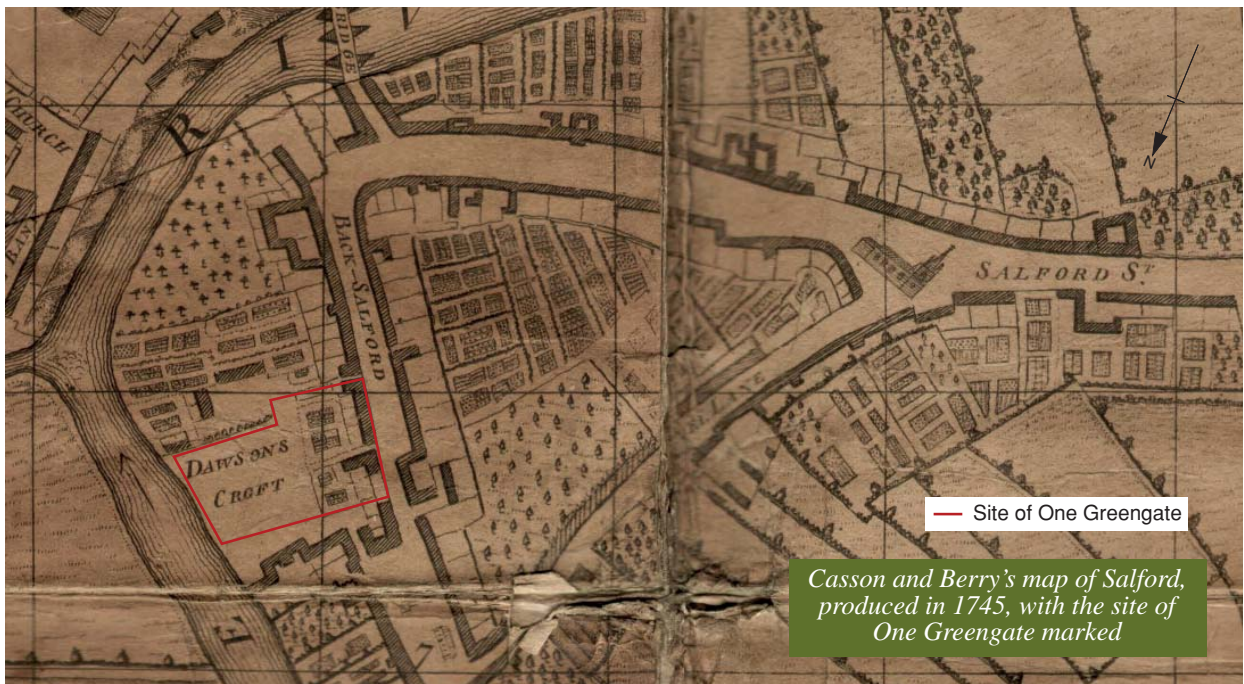
The map of *c* 1650 also marks the position of the market place at the northern end of Greengate, and the site of the market cross is also shown, together with a detached building that was referred to originally as the Court House, and later as the Exchange. This building is first documented in the late sixteenth century, and served as Salford's town hall. It also housed the official weights and measures that were used to regulate the market, and was the meeting place of the court of the Salford Hundred. It was eventually demolished in 1824. Other features known to have been associated with the post-medieval market place included the town stocks, used to punish local offenders, and the town's water pump.

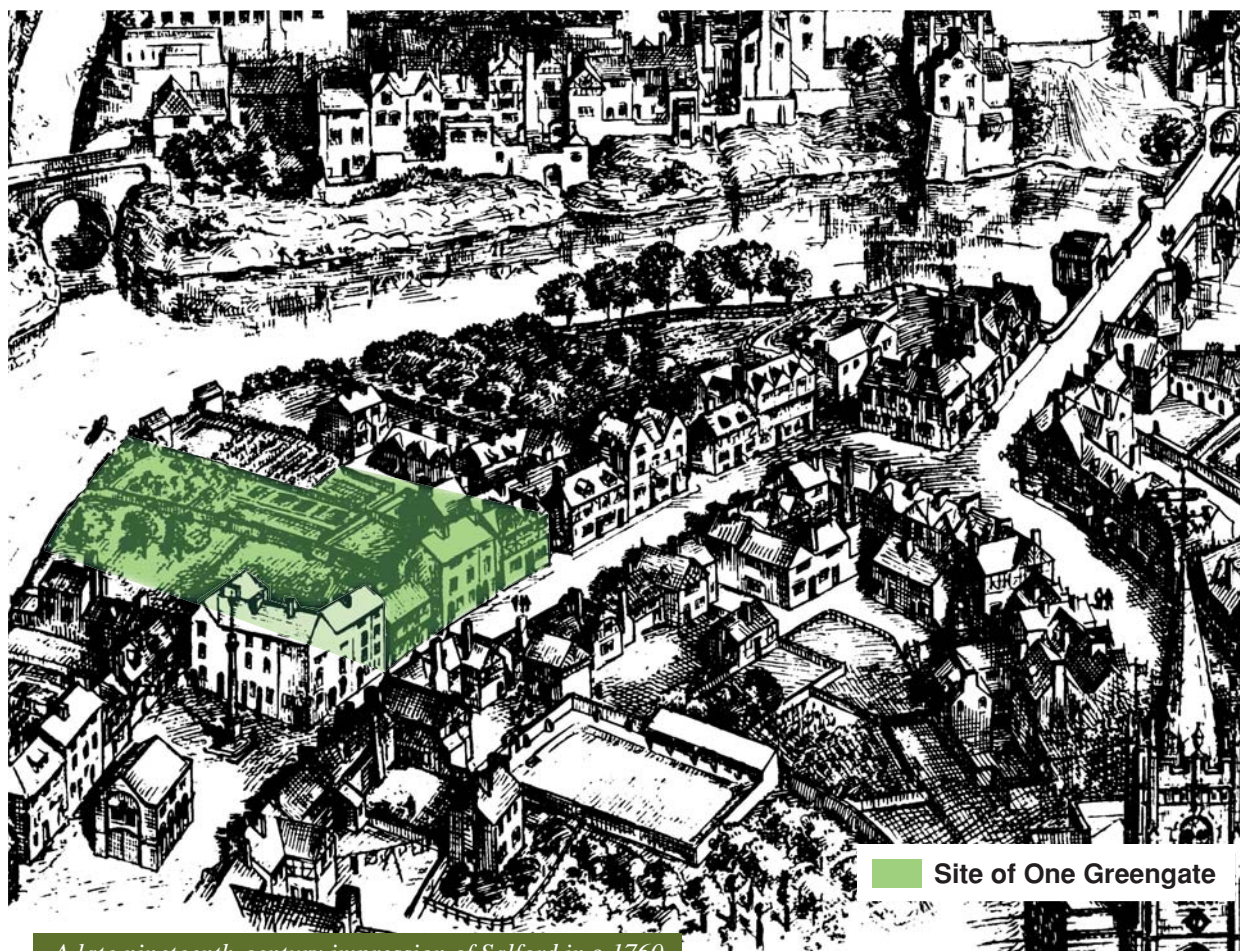


The former Fisherman's Hut beerhouse on Chapel Street was a good example of one of Salford's timber-framed buildings. It was demolished between 1896 and 1900 (Salford Local History Library)

The documentary evidence provides further details of the late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century town. The size of Salford's population during this period, for instance, can be estimated from the Hearth Tax Returns. Those for 1666 list 115 householders in the township of Salford, suggesting the total population to have been in the region of 550, although this would also include those living beyond the fringe of the town. It is interesting to compare this figure with the number of households in the Manchester township for the same period, which was calculated to be 820, providing an estimated population in excess of 3600.

Several important maps of Salford were produced in the mid-eighteenth century. These include a pictorial plan produced by Joseph Hill in 1740, and four successive maps produced between 1741 and 1751 by the cartographers Russel Casson and John Berry. Although these depict the layout of the mid-eighteenth-century town as essentially similar to that shown on the c 1650 map, they also indicate that more buildings had been established along Gravel Lane, as well as portions of Chapel Street, immediately west of the seventeenth-century core. This expansion reflects a growth in the town's population during the early and mid-eighteenth century. Available figures show that 503 families were resident in the town in 1717, and this figure had risen dramatically to 1099 families in 1773-4, when the first accurate census of the population was made.





A late nineteenth-century impression of Salford in c 1760

An impression of Salford in the mid-eighteenth century is captured on a superb illustration that formed part of Randolph Caldecott's 'Elevation of Manchester and Salford'. This was published in the *British Architect* in January 1893, and whilst it is difficult to establish the source of the data used by Caldecott, there is no reason to suspect that it does not provide a reasonably accurate picture of the town in c 1760. It shows the original bridge across the River Irwell, together with the small chapel placed on one of the bridge piers. The various buildings lining Greengate feature in the centre, together with the market place and its cross. Much of the land between Greengate and the river seems to be used for market gardening or as orchards, although one plot is named 'Dawson's Croft' on Casson and Berry's map, implying that it may have been used by textile manufacturers for finishing cloth.



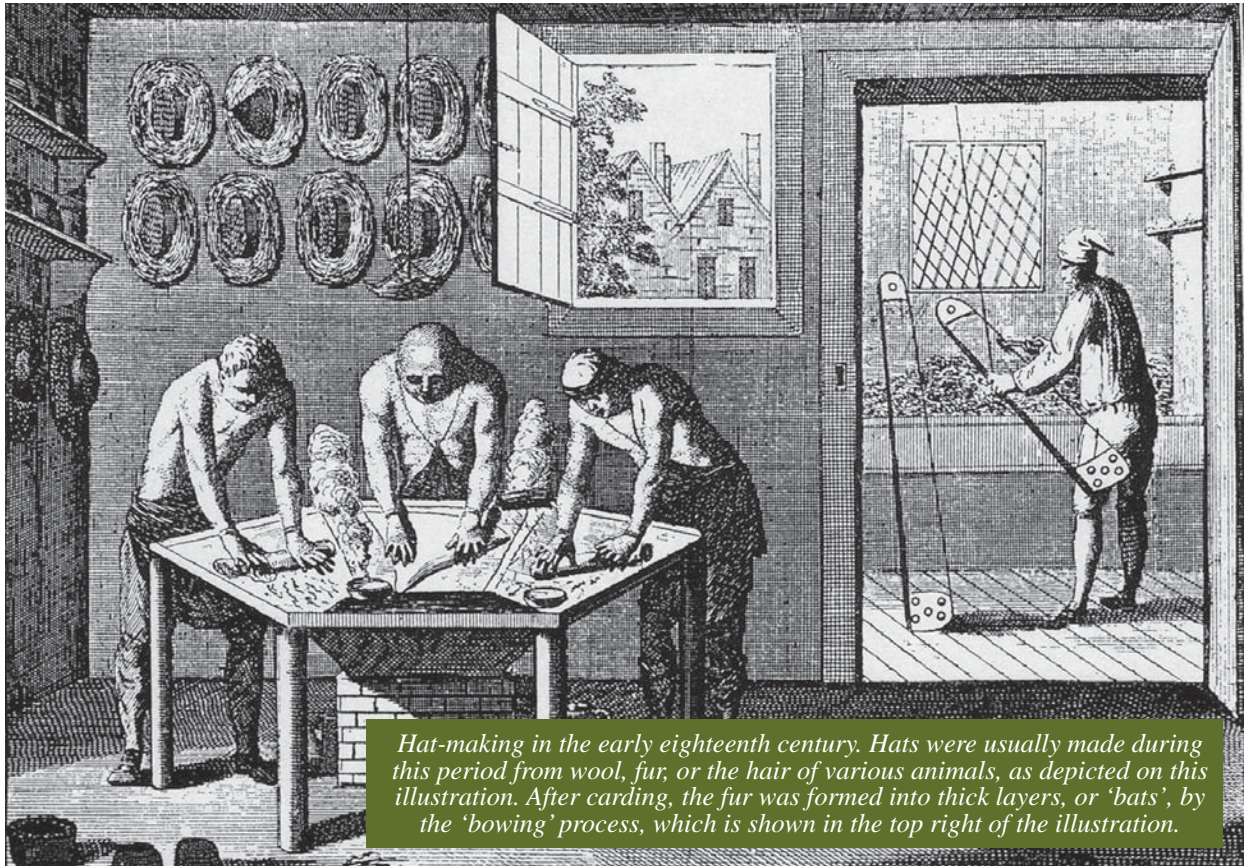
*An early nineteenth-century
illustration of a traditional open-air
bleach croft*

It is known from historical documents that the production of textiles, including woollens and linens, and later cottons, became firmly embedded within Salford's economy during this period. Probate records dating to the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries show that textile goods were being manufactured in workshops attached to numerous domestic dwellings in the town. Evidence for the textile-finishing trades in Salford can also be found in surviving historical documents. The Portmote records for 1603 and 1611, for instance, mention a 'tenter croft', where woollen cloth would have been stretched and dyed, whilst records for 1652 refer to a 'yarne croft', which may have been used for the bleaching of linen cloth.

The only means of bleaching cloth prior to the late eighteenth century involved a lengthy process that could take several months to complete. Initially, the cloth was boiled in alkaline lye made from wood ashes, which was followed by a thorough washing in water and steeping in buttermilk. Whitening of the cloth was finally achieved by spreading it out in the open air, and exposing it to the sun for long periods. Bleachers in Salford will have depended upon the relatively pure water of the River Irwell for washing the cloth during the bleaching process, and it is perhaps no coincidence that Dawson's Croft lay on the bank of the river.

The importance of the textile trade to Salford's economy is reflected in the comments of the famous travel writer, Celia Fiennes, who described the market in the early eighteenth century as 'taking up two streets' length usually occupied by textile production'. This is confirmed to some degree by entries in trade directories for the later eighteenth century, which list several cotton manufacturers on Greengate, together with silk-throwers, wool dealers, print-cutters, and hat manufacturers.

Entries in trade directories also provide an indication of other types of tradesmen who were living on Greengate, and the different types of craft-working activity that characterised this part of Salford at the beginning of the town's transformation to a heavily industrialised settlement. These trades included umbrella makers, nail makers, brush makers, shoe makers, and brewers. Greengate was also inhabited by various types of merchants in the late eighteenth century and, in the words of one commentator, 'persons of utmost respectability'.



Hat-making in the early eighteenth century. Hats were usually made during this period from wool, fur, or the hair of various animals, as depicted on this illustration. After carding, the fur was formed into thick layers, or 'bats', by the 'bowing' process, which is shown in the top right of the illustration.

The Archaeology of Post-medieval Salford

The sites along Greengate that have been excavated have all yielded important evidence relating to the occupation and use of this principal street. One of these excavations investigated the site of the Bull's Head, on the south-western side of Greengate. This may have originally been the residence of the Allen family, though it was used as a public house from the mid-eighteenth century onwards. Photographs taken in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show that it had a timber-framed superstructure supported by sandstone footings. It is also clear that part of this building had a timber cruck frame, which may represent its earliest element, whilst adjoining portions were of a post-and-truss construction, suggesting that they date to the late sixteenth or seventeenth century. It was finally demolished in 1930.

Excavation in 1986 revealed two rock-cut cellars, which lay beneath the post-and-truss part of the Bull's Head. They were probably contemporary features, as one of the cellars was faced with a stone ashlar-block wall that may date to the late sixteenth or seventeenth century. Other features associated with the cellars included later rebuilds and additions, which were constructed in brick. The excavation also uncovered a well to the rear of the property. This had a stone ashlar-block wall and, as such, may also date to the late sixteenth or seventeenth century.

One Greengate lies on the opposite side of the street to the site of the Bull's Head. The map of c 1650 depicts this part of Greengate as lined by a continuous range of buildings, whilst mid-eighteenth-century maps imply that these buildings partly fronted the market place as well as Greengate. Plots to the rear were probably used as allotments and orchards, and may also have been used for small-scale industrial and craft-working activity.

A late sixteenth- or seventeenth-century well excavated at the Bull's Head (GMAU Archive)



Late sixteenth- or seventeenth-century rock-cut cellars, with stone ashlar-block walls, excavated at the Bull's Head (GMAU Archive)





*The building that lay within the site of One Greengate, as photographed in 1896
(Salford Local History Library)*

One of the early buildings on the site of One Greengate was still standing in the late nineteenth century, and appears in several photographs and illustrations. These show that it was a two-storey timber-framed townhouse, with distinctive overhanging eaves on the upper storey. However, it was substantially rebuilt and modified in the early nineteenth century, when it was converted into three separate properties. The building was finally demolished in 1901.



Extract from a scene produced by the Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder in 1599, showing a ceramic brazier hanging from a pole

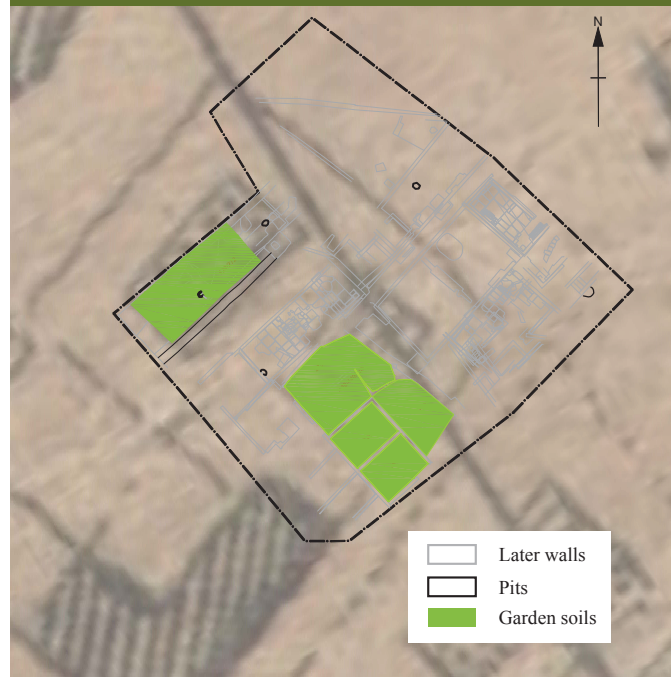
Although no remains of any of the early buildings that had lined Greengate survived within the excavation area, several post-medieval features and deposits were encountered to the rear. The earliest of these remains included a scatter of small pits, perhaps used to dispose of rubbish, and two postholes, forming elements of a small timber structure. One of the pits contained pottery that spanned the period between *c* 1650 and 1700, whilst another contained a piece of pottery with a square rim, with a holes beneath. This fragment may have come from a vessel used as a brazier or hand/foot warmer.

Possible brazier or hand/foot warmer found at the site of One Greengate



Sealing these features was a garden soil that had probably formed in the early to mid-eighteenth century, when this area was used as an allotment and orchard. This thick layer contained an important collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century pottery that was used by the inhabitants of Greengate. Once this pottery had broken, or fallen out of fashion, it was dumped into the area to the rear of the properties, and became incorporated into the garden soil. Its importance is that it represents a direct archaeological link to the early post-medieval period, particularly as the actual evidence for domestic buildings constructed prior to the 1740s is generally lacking in both Salford and Manchester. The garden soil to the rear of the building that survived until 1901 also contained iron-working debris. This probably derived from small-scale craft working, within this, or an adjacent, property.

The remains of pits and garden soils excavated at the site of One Greengate, superimposed on the Casson and Berry map of 1745





*Mid-seventeenth-century
early Blackware vessels*



The pottery from the excavation included fragments of utilitarian kitchen wares and a wide range of different types of more expensive table wares. The seventeenth-century material included lead-glazed earthenware vessels known as Blackwares, which were an advanced type of pottery, representing an element of the transition from medieval ceramics to modern pottery. It was especially popular between the mid-seventeenth century and c 1720.

Other seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century material included fragments of Slipware dishes. The attractive decoration on this distinctive type of pottery was created by painting or splashing a powdered clay mixed with water, known as slip, onto a vessel before it was fired. The excavated examples had probably been made in one of the established production centres in North Wales, Staffordshire or Yorkshire, and will have been fashionable table wares in the second half of the seventeenth century. The discovery of Slipware vessels during the excavation implies that the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century residents of Greengate enjoyed a degree of affluence.



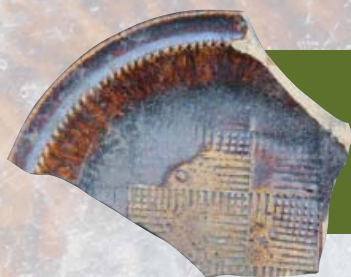
*Fragments of Slipware
vessels dating to the
late seventeenth or
early eighteenth
century*



Examples of the Pottery Discovered on the Site of One Greengate



Slip-coated wares, characterised by a brown or dark red slip beneath a lead glaze, were especially popular during the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The range of vessel types from the excavation included small dishes, bowls and mugs



Mottled wares were another common eighteenth-century type of pottery that was widely available in c 1700–70. Those discovered during the excavation included fragments of dishes, bowls, jugs, mugs, and what may have been a dripping pan

Fragments of a white salt-glazed stoneware mug and saucer. This type of pottery appeared in the 1720s, and was frequently used for tea wares. Their introduction reflects changing tastes and styles in dining, with an increasing trend in the consumption of tea and coffee



Brown salt-glazed stoneware, such as this fragment of a Bartmann-style jug, was also found. Dating to the late seventeenth century, this was probably imported from Germany

0 100 mm

1:3

Tin-glazed earthenware was also represented amongst the excavated material, including several joining fragments of a teapot. This distinctive type of pottery was popular during the first half of the eighteenth century, with Liverpool emerging as the main production centre in the region



Imported originally from China, porcelain was being manufactured successfully in England by the mid-eighteenth century. Examples from Greengate included this fine bowl, decorated with a painted Chinese scene



The largest group of pottery from the excavation comprised dark-glazed earthenware, a common type of pottery that was widely produced between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. It was mainly for use in the kitchen, with this example forming part of a bung-hole cistern for storing liquid



0 200 mm
1:4

Another site, further north was excavated on Greengate, next to its junction with Gravel Lane, as part of the Abito development. The map of c 1650 implies that the southern part of this area was lined by a continuous range of buildings. One of these properties was the Three Legs of Man public house, situated on the junction, which is reputed to have been owned by Thomas Johnson in the seventeenth century. An L-shaped range extending back from Greengate is also shown, partly enclosing a square plot of vacant land. Between 1729 and 1740, a large brick-built property was erected within this plot. At that time, this represented the largest and grandest house in the town, and was occupied by Lady Dukinfield, the widow of Sir Robert Dukinfield, lord of the manors of Dukinfield and Brinnington in north-east Cheshire.



The location of the Abito development at the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane, superimposed on Hill's plan of 1740



Excavation of this area uncovered a large ditch that appeared to represent a realignment of an earlier medieval property boundary. At a later date, the ditch was used to define the rear boundary of Lady Dukinfield's property. Other features included a gully, rubbish pits, and spreads of charcoal containing fragments of pottery, clay tobacco-pipe fragments, and industrial waste, representing refuse derived from the adjacent property. In addition, a spread of degraded red sandstone surface was uncovered, that represented a flagged surface to the rear of the post-medieval properties fronting Greengate. This lay next to a stone wall of potentially early date, although it had been rebuilt subsequently.

Section across the post-medieval ditch discovered at the junction of Greengate and Gravel Lane (GMAU Archive)

Another site, excavated in 2013-14, encompasses an area on the north-eastern side of Greengate, beneath the nineteenth-century railway viaducts that supported Exchange Station. A programme of trial trenching around these viaducts uncovered fragments of a sandstone wall, which probably formed the foundations of a medieval building, together with a stone-lined well of a similar date. Post-medieval activity was represented by a brick-lined well and cellars.


Further remains relating to the post-medieval town have been discovered to the south-west, at Clowes Street, as part of the Chapel Wharf development. Archaeological excavation uncovered the remains of a stone wall that perhaps defined the south-western boundary of the seventeenth-century town, although the wall was potentially of late medieval date. Agricultural land lay to the south-west of this boundary, whilst to the north-east were burgage plots that contained houses, allotments, and orchards. Physical evidence for the burgage plots included a ditch parallel to the stone wall; this formed the boundary of a 7 m-wide burgage plot. In addition, a garden soil similar to that uncovered at the site of One Greengate was excavated, which also contained a sizable collection of post-medieval pottery.

The excavation of the stone wall at Clowes Street (GMAU Archive)



INDUSTRIAL SALFORD





This impressive painting by John Raphael Isaac, dating to 1859, provides an invaluable high-level view across Salford and Manchester in the mid-nineteenth century. Showing Salford in the foreground, it vividly captures the town as a fully developed industrialised settlement, with rows of workers' houses crammed amongst a dense concentration of factories. (reproduced courtesy of City of Salford Museums and Art Gallery)

- 1: One Greengate
- 2: Chapel Street
- 3: Salford Iron Works
- 4: Site of cross, market, and court house
- 5: Sacred Trinity Church
- 6: Adelphi Street

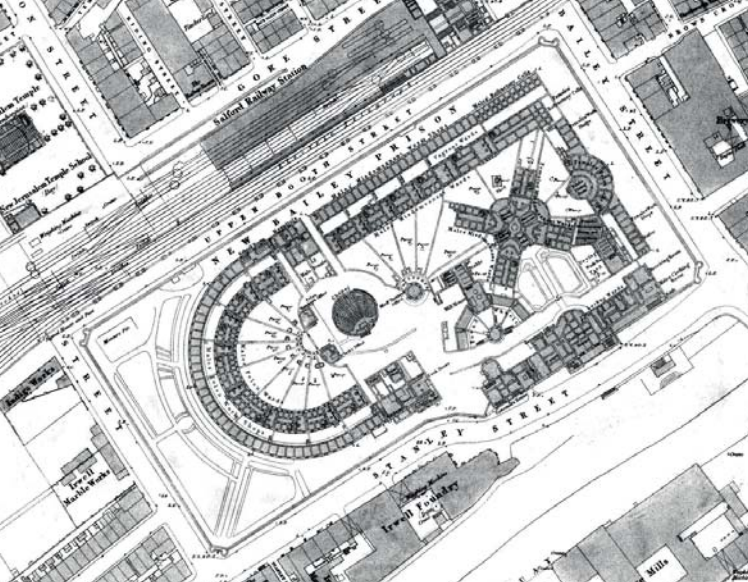
Salford entered a period of massive expansion in the last decades of the eighteenth century, largely due to the rise of the region's textile industry, a process which continued throughout the nineteenth century. This resulted in a rapid increase in population across the Salford township, which expanded from 4765 people in 1773 to 13,611 in 1801. This figure then increased dramatically to 40,786 in 1831, and by the end of the nineteenth century, 109,732 people resided in the township. The town underwent substantial growth accordingly and its character was transformed into an industrialised urban landscape, effectively becoming the *Dirty Old Town* coined by the Salford-born folk singer Ewan MacColl.

Industrial Salford in the nineteenth century was characterised by dense groups of large buildings associated with the town's core industries. These included textile manufacturing and finishing, engineering and iron working, and brewing, which were often housed in purpose-built premises. Accompanying the industrial works were swathes of workers' houses that were built rapidly from the late eighteenth century onwards. The cramped and poor-quality condition of some of these houses earned nineteenth-century Salford notoriety for its slums, which were highlighted by social commentators such as Friedrich Engels. Larger domestic properties also existed, though these were mostly confined to the main historic streets. Interspersed amongst the housing were commercial premises, places of worship, and a dense concentration of public houses and beer houses.



A police station was strategically situated within the historic core by the early nineteenth century, though Salford had possessed its own body of Police Commissioners from 1792. A large prison was also established to the south-west of the historic core. This was New Bailey Prison, opened in April 1790, which replaced Salford's Old Dungeon, pulled down in 1776.

Aerial view across industrial Salford c 1930



New Bailey Prison, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

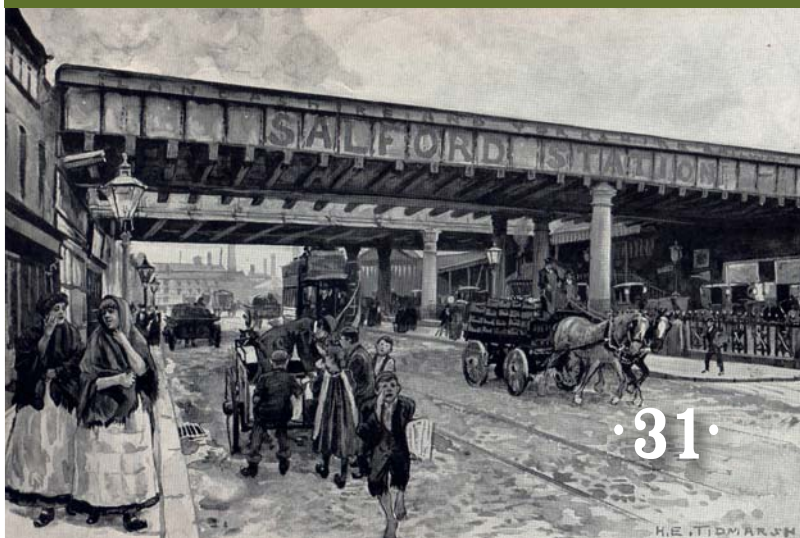
New Bailey formed the chief prison for the Hundred of Salford, and comprised a cross-shaped building used to house the incarcerated felons, with four linked enclosed courtyards. It was enlarged and substantially modified in 1816 through the construction of additional felon wards, workshops, a schoolroom, and extended grounds, all enclosed within a wall. The prison was closed in July 1868 and demolished in 1871, having been replaced by the new prison at Strangeways. The site of New Bailey Prison was later covered by Bailey Yard, which formed part of the Salford Goods Station. In 2013-15, the buried

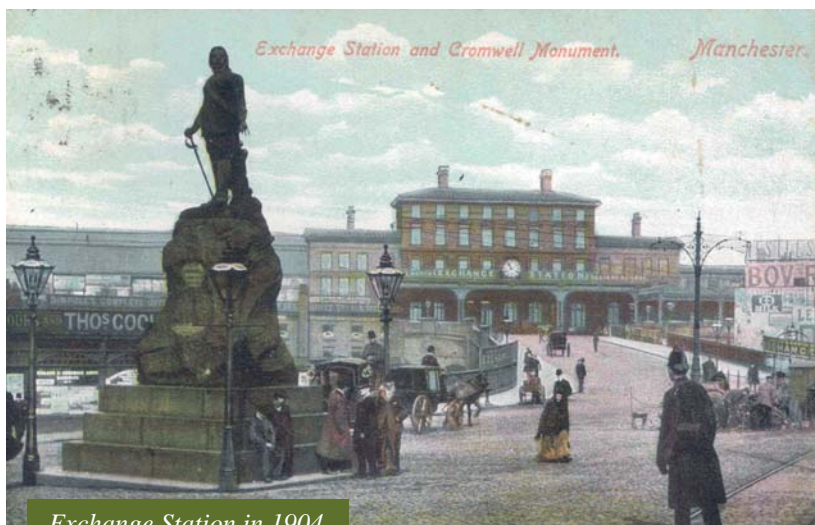
remains of the prison were the focus of an archaeological investigation, which revealed the well-preserved foundations of part of the building.

Several important routes of communication also served the industrial town. The Mersey-Irwell Navigation remained the principal trade route throughout the second half of the eighteenth century, although this was enhanced by the growth of the local canal network. In 1795, the Manchester, Bolton, and Bury Canal opened, and an associated wharf was established on the south-western fringe of Salford town centre. This canal was designed specifically to transport coal to Salford and Manchester from the collieries situated to the north in the Irwell Valley.

A network of railways was established from the mid-nineteenth century, which became the most important form of transport across the region. The first railway to enter Salford was the Manchester, Bolton, and Bury (MB&B) railway, which was built in the late 1830s. This railway was carried across the town on a brick-built viaduct that terminated at Salford Central Station, opened in 1838. The construction of the viaduct necessitated the demolition of many earlier buildings in the town.

The railway viaduct terminating at Salford Central Station, shown on an illustration published in 1894





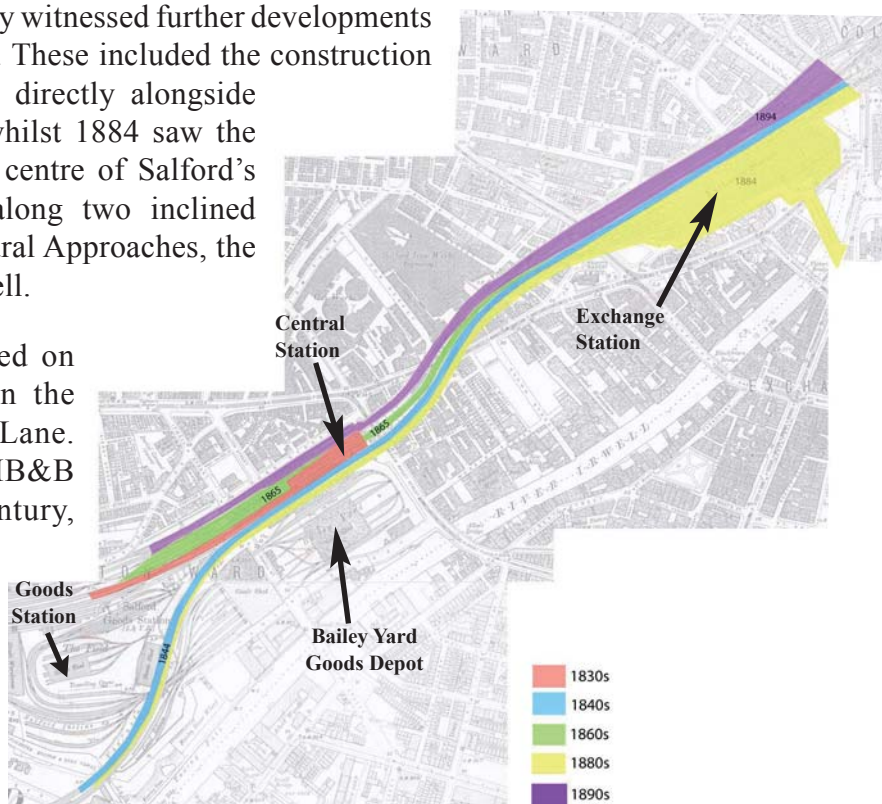
Exchange Station in 1904

Expansion of the local rail system occurred in the 1840s, with the completion of a line in 1844 from Ordsall Lane to the newly opened station at Hunt's Bank (later Victoria), on the Manchester side of the Irwell. As with the MB&B railway, this line was carried on a brick-built viaduct through Salford Central Station, onwards to Victoria, which led to further demolition of parts of Salford's historic core.

The latter half of the nineteenth century witnessed further developments and alterations to the railway system. These included the construction of several additional viaducts, built directly alongside the late 1830s and 1844 viaducts, whilst 1884 saw the opening of Exchange Station in the centre of Salford's historic core. This was accessed along two inclined roadways, named Salford and Cathedral Approaches, the latter of which crossed the River Irwell.

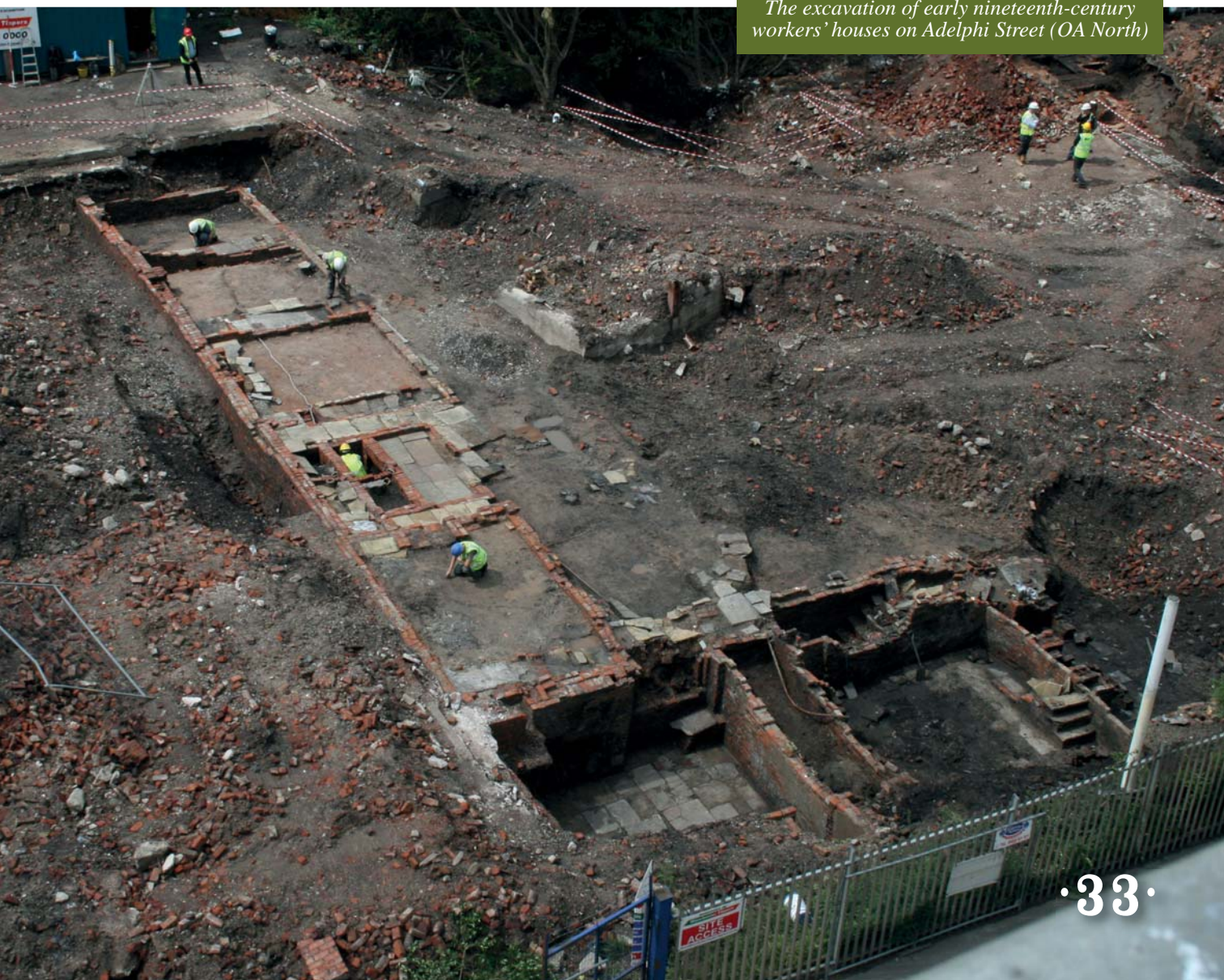
A goods station was also established on the edge of the industrial town, in the area of Irwell Street and Ordsall Lane. The site was first acquired by the MB&B railway in the mid-nineteenth century, though it expanded considerably following the demolition of New Bailey Prison in 1871.

The development of the railway system across Salford's historic core, shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1909



Taken together, Salford's eighteenth- and nineteenth-century industries, housing, ancillary features, and transport form major elements of the town's industrial heritage. Although many of these still exist as standing buildings and structures, others have been demolished and now only survive as buried remains. Some of these below-ground remains have been examined extensively by archaeological investigation, which has normally taken place when areas are subjected to modern development. This research has focused on specific elements of Salford's industrial heritage, which include those sites relating to the textile industry and engineering, and also the sites of early workers' housing.

The excavation of early nineteenth-century workers' houses on Adelphi Street (OA North)



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SALFORD'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY



The remains of the Adelphi Street Dye Works, exposed during excavation

The Adelphi Dye Works

An important branch of the textile industry was the bleaching, dyeing, and printing of cloth, referred to collectively as textile finishing. These processes all required large volumes of water, and hence many of these works lined the banks of the River Irwell. Dawson's Croft, on the site of One Greengate, was occupied in the mid-nineteenth century by Dawson's Croft Print Works, with a small dye works situated a short distance to the north. Another dye works was established by Isaac Bury on Adelphi Street in the early nineteenth century, and remained in production until the early 1960s. Fascinating remains of this dye works were revealed during an archaeological excavation in 2008.

The machinery and equipment housed in the dye works when it was built would have been relatively simple, and is likely to have included several large cisterns, or vats, that contained the dyes. A long rope of cloth wound loosely onto rollers over the vats would have been drawn through the dye, which would have been heated by steam. Once the cloth had been dyed, it was washed and soaped to remove unwanted colourants. Finally, the dyed cloth was dried in a drying room that was usually heated by steam pipes.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, dyes were obtained from natural sources. Most blue and purple colours were derived from indigo, whilst red and yellow colourants were obtained from various plant species. These were eventually superseded by synthetic dyes, which were introduced in the 1850s, and offered a huge range of colours.

The earliest remains of the Adelphi Dye Works exposed during the excavation were fragmentary, but included the remnants of an L-shaped range of buildings that are depicted on a map of 1809, and part of a reservoir that had occupied the centre of the site. Slightly later remains, representing an expansion of the works before the mid-nineteenth century, dominated the excavation area. These included the main processing area that contained the remnants of at least five dye vats. One of these was lined with thick slabs of slate, presumably to withstand the

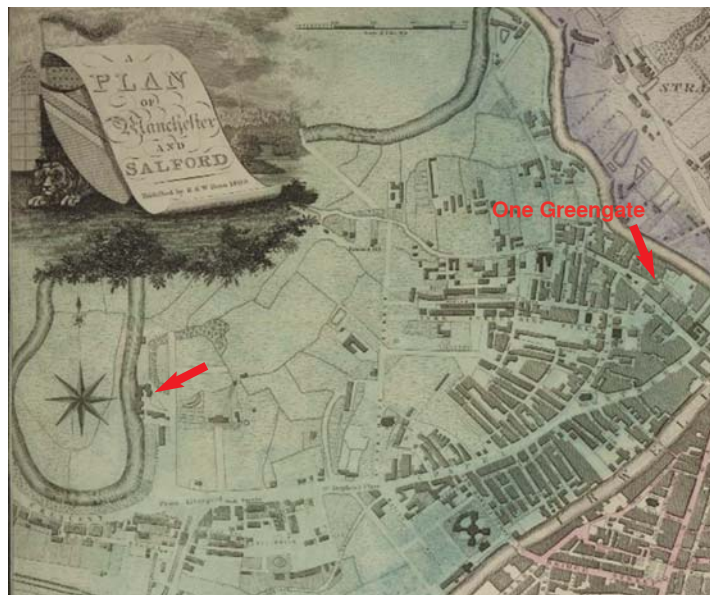
action of corrosive chemicals, and was stained with yellow dye. The adjacent vats were built of riveted iron sheets, and were also stained with yellow and orange dyes. A network of pipes connected to the dye vats suggests that they had been steam heated.



One of the slate-lined dye vats



The remains of the iron vats, stained with yellow dye



The Adelphi Dye Works, shown some distance from the centre of the town on a plan of 1809

The steam had been raised in two separate banks of boilers that were placed in the centre of the dye works. These also supplied the energy for a large steam engine that powered the machinery in the works.

Remains relating to the later nineteenth-century dye works were also identified, representing a period when the works used synthetic dyes. Isaac Bury is known to have purchased chemically produced mauve dye paste from Heinrich Caro, a German chemist working for a Manchester chemical company in the mid-1860s. Excavated remains dating to this period included tubs used for the preparation of synthetic dyes in the dye mixing area. A new building containing another steam engine was also added to the works in the late 1860s, occupying the northern part of the site.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SALFORD'S ENGINEERING INDUSTRY



An engraving of 1814, showing the range of products manufactured at an early nineteenth-century foundry and engineering works

Mechanical engineering was another important industry in Salford that developed from the late eighteenth century. The rapid evolution of mechanisation and factories in the textile industry created an increasing demand for machinery, steam engines, boilers, gearing and a wide range of other iron goods. An early pioneer of Salford's engineering industry was James Bateman, who established an iron foundry on Water Street, off Chapel Street, in 1788. He entered into partnership with William Sherratt in 1791, and opened a large foundry on Hardman Street on the western fringe of the town. Known as the Salford Iron Works, this became one of the largest engineering works in the region, where the steam engines used in many of the early textile mills and finishing works in Manchester and Salford were manufactured.

A glance at the historical mapping of Salford shows that numerous engineering works, including iron and copper works and machinery manufactories, had been established in the town by the mid-nineteenth century. By this date, the Salford Iron Works had been taken over by John Platt, who continued Bateman and Sherratt's business initially, but eventually went into partnership with William and Colin Mather, to form the famous engineering firm of Mather & Platt.



Recording the east-facing elevation of the building on King Street that contained the beam engine. The centre of the engine's flywheel lay adjacent to the blocked-up arch opening (centre), whilst the cylinder was positioned next to the blocked up square opening (right) (GMAU Archive)

Following considerable expansion in the mid-nineteenth century, the iron works closed in 1886 and a large part of the site was rebuilt as the King Street cotton mill. Notwithstanding this redevelopment, the archaeological excavation revealed several important elements of the early nineteenth-century iron works. These included the well-preserved foundations for a beam engine that had powered the machinery in the works from the 1820s onwards. The surviving remains comprised a flywheel pit, the stone and brick setting for the flywheel axle, and a stone block supporting the engine's condenser.

Elements of the mid-nineteenth-century iron works were also identified. These included various walls associated with the expansion of the works, and also the brick-built base, iron fittings, and flywheel pit associated with a small, low-pressure horizontal steam engine. This type of engine was commonly used to power machinery in iron works, breweries, and collieries during the later nineteenth century, although the excavated remains appeared to have been installed between 1845 and 1849, and thus represented the earliest example of a horizontal steam engine identified in Greater Manchester.

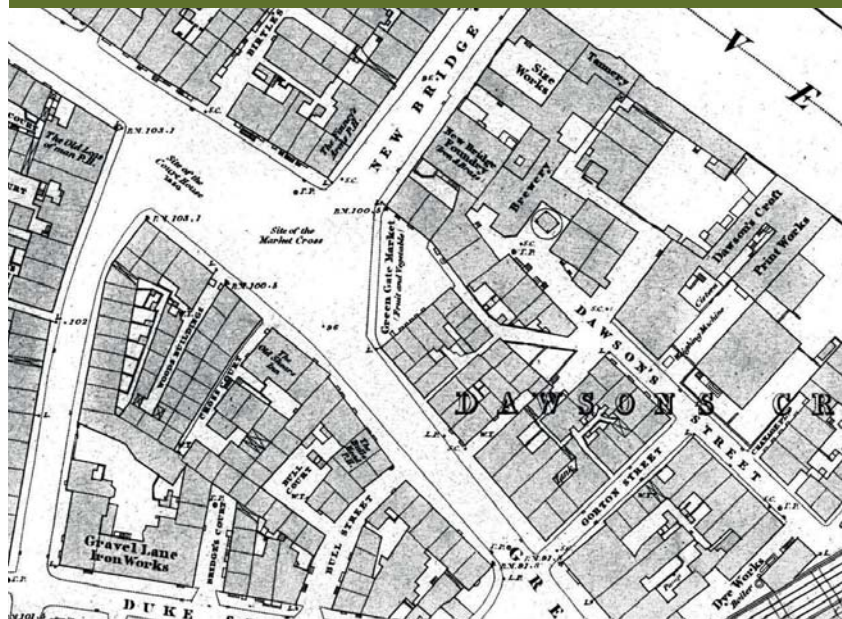
Similar remains were discovered during the excavation at Chapel Wharf in 2005, where the foundations for two steam engines were uncovered. These probably lay within a building that may have formed part of an early iron works. Although only part of the foundations lay within the excavated trench, it appeared that one engine dated to the late eighteenth- or early nineteenth century. This had evidently been replaced by a larger steam engine by the mid-nineteenth century.

Recording the foundations of the two steam engines excavated at Chapel Wharf (GMAU Archive)



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SALFORD'S INDUSTRIAL-ERA HOUSING

Salford's developed townscape around Greengate in 1850, showing different types of workers' housing crammed between factories and larger houses/shops along the Greengate frontage



The massive growth of Salford's population during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries placed enormous pressures on the existing housing stock. Property speculators obtained land wherever possible, and built dwellings to rent to the new urban working classes. The earliest housing was erected with little legislative control, which resulted in unregulated and piecemeal expansion. This included the building of small dwellings on plots of land to

the rear of the properties that lined Salford's major thoroughfares. Many of the existing properties were also rebuilt or remodelled during this period, and some were subdivided in order to house multiple families. By 1831, most of the available space between the works and factories in Salford's historic core had been infilled with workers' houses.

The types of housing that existed during this period included double-depth terraces, some of which had yards and outshuts to their rear, and smaller back-to-back and blind-back houses. These latter types were often only a single room wide and deep, with windows limited to the front walls. The cellars of many properties were also inhabited, providing the cheapest form of accommodation, and even as late as 1868 there were still some 700 cellars in use as dwellings in Salford. Many houses were arranged around small alleyways and blind courtyards, the most notorious of which were located close to Greengate. Much of this housing stock provided an unsanitary living environment that was over-crowded, poorly lit, and unventilated.

The social commentator Friedrich Engels visited Salford in the 1840s, and penned a damning account of the housing conditions:

'If we cross the Irwell to Salford, we find on a peninsula formed by the river a town of 80,000 inhabitants, which, properly speaking, is one large working-men's quarter, penetrated by a single wide avenue...All Salford is built in courts or narrow lanes, so narrow, that they remind me of the narrowest I have ever seen... The narrow side lanes and courts of Chapel Street, Greengate, and Gravel Lane have certainly never been cleansed since they were built...'

Salford developed a reputation as one of the unhealthiest places to live in mid-nineteenth-century Britain. Building regulations were finally introduced in 1862, whilst from the late 1870s onwards more effective drains and sewers were installed in an attempt to improve standards of living. However, a survey conducted by the Citizens' Association of Manchester in 1904 identified several blocks of back-to-back houses that were still occupied in the centre of Salford, encompassed by tracts of sub-standard housing classified as slum property. The area was described as:

'a district of mean streets... Smells, which are unpleasant if not unwholesome, are caused by one or more of the factories near. Many of the houses in the area are said to be damp and to be infested by rats and other vermin. In the back passages between the houses and in the courts pools of stagnant water are standing several days after there has been rain'.



It was not until the early twentieth century that the clearances of Salford's sub-standard housing began, with much of this happening after 1945. This process started within the historic core, and in 1930 Greengate was declared a clearance area. An integral part of the clearance process was the construction of high-rise flats and housing estates, beyond the town centre, which offered a new form of urban dwelling.

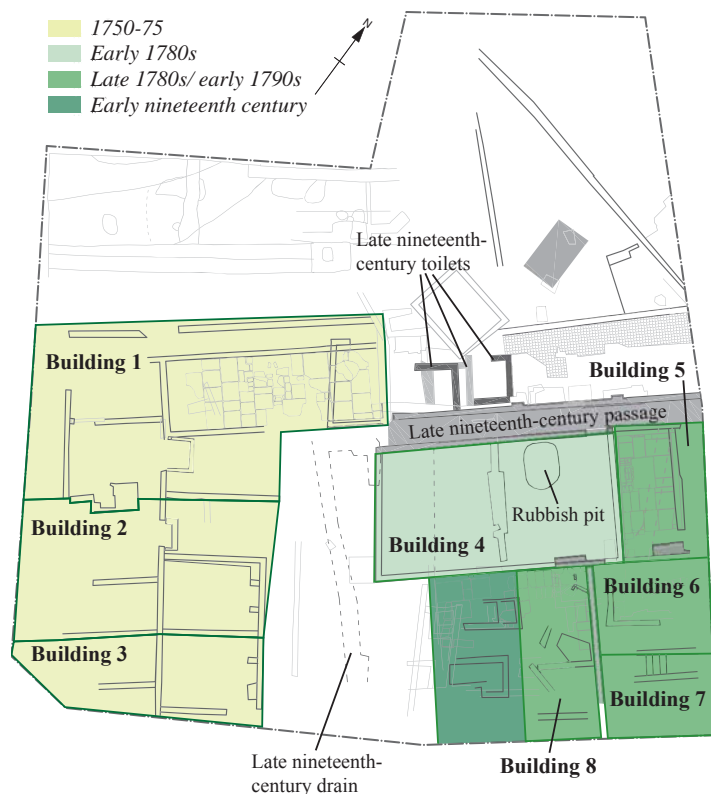
Court dwellings in Salford c 1901

One Greengate: Houses and Domestic Workshops

Excavation of the One Greengate site exposed the foundations of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century housing, including the remains of a brick-built terrace of three properties that fronted onto Greengate (Buildings 1-3). Pottery recovered from these foundations suggested that they had been constructed between 1750 and 1775. They appeared to have been fairly large properties, and perhaps housed the wealthier residents of the late eighteenth-century town.

The excavated houses all had cellars, which seem to have lain lay beneath two ground-floor rooms. These rooms will probably have comprised a living room/parlour at the front of the house, and a kitchen to the rear. Two of the houses also had small outshuts, which

were presumably used as sculleries, and also small enclosed yards. However, one had a much larger outshut, implying that it represented a fairly substantial property, which probably contained multiple rooms to its rear. In 1852, it was a beer house known as the Flying Dutchman.



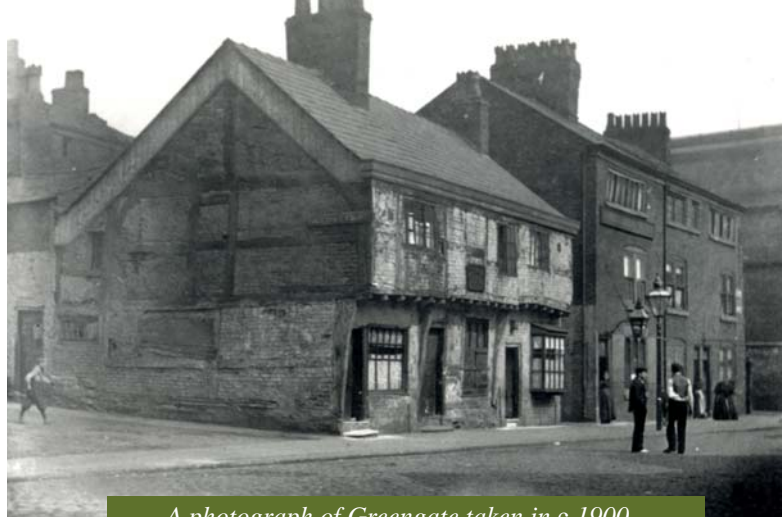
A plan of the houses excavated on the site of One Greengate



Looking north across the remains of the late eighteenth-century buildings (Building 3 in the foreground) fronting onto Greengate. The unexcavated cellars are on the left-hand side, whilst the walls to the right are the remains of the buildings' outshuts

Early photographs of these properties show that they had three floors. The upper floor of each contained rows of multi-light mullioned windows, typically associated with domestic-based textile workshops, where cloth was woven on handlooms.

Excavation to the rear of these buildings uncovered the remains of several smaller properties, which were defined by walls of hand-made bricks. These represented workers' houses that were constructed in stages across the land to the rear of the large properties lining the street frontage. The earliest of these houses was probably built within a small garden plot that is depicted on Casson and Berry's map of 1745, and comprised a small blind-back structure containing two separate dwellings (Building 4). Each dwelling merely had a small ground-floor room, measuring 4.2 x 4 m, with a door in one corner, a fireplace on one wall, and probably a single ground-floor window in the front wall. Access to an upper room, if present, was



A photograph of Greengate taken in c 1900, showing a timber-framed building of possible sixteenth- or seventeenth-century date, and the adjacent eighteenth-century properties, the cellars and outshuts of which were uncovered during the excavation. The upper floors of these properties had rows of multi-light mullioned windows, suggesting that they were originally used as workshops

probably via a ladder placed in one corner of the room.

This building may have been built in the early 1780s, as it was above a rubbish pit that contained pottery dating to the 1760s or 1770s. As such, it represents a very early example of this type of blind-back dwelling. It is possible that it was designed originally to house artisan workers, who were perhaps employed in the workshops in the upper floor of the adjacent properties fronting Greengate.



Looking south-west across the remains of the early blind-back property (Building 4; background) and a later eighteenth-century property (Building 5; foreground)

Following the construction of this small dwelling, several additional workers' houses were built in rapid succession (Buildings 6-8). Map evidence indicates that these buildings had been erected either in the late 1780s or early 1790s, and that they fronted onto two streets to the rear of Greengate, named Dawson's Croft and Gorton Street. These were larger than the earlier blind-back dwellings, with two rooms at ground-floor level, that at the front probably functioning as a living room/kitchen, whilst that at the rear may have acted as a scullery. This layout suggests that they represented a two-up two-down-style of workers' house.



Looking south-west across the remains of the late eighteenth-century workers' houses (Buildings 6 and 7) that fronted Dawson's Croft and Gorton Street

The partial remains of fireplaces were revealed in all the houses, and one of the dwellings retained a set of stairs leading to a cellar beneath the front room of the property. Interestingly, these steps had been backfilled with hundreds of complete glass bottles of various makes, from as far away as Belfast and London.



A selection of bottles recovered from the cellar stairs of one of the late eighteenth-century properties

Evidence from the excavation demonstrated that the late eighteenth-century properties were rebuilt and strengthened in the later nineteenth century, which appears to reflect a common theme across Salford's urban area. Other excavated remains dating to the late nineteenth century included a narrow, paved passageway, and outside toilets and drains. These later features may represent attempts at improving sanitation.

In addition to the structural remains, the excavation also yielded a large quantity of mass-produced pottery. This included Creamware plates, bowls, tureens, and chamber pots, produced in Staffordshire, which were popular in the last decades of the eighteenth century. Numerous fragments of Pearlware pottery, dating to between 1780 and the 1830s, were also found. It was common to decorate Pearlware with painted designs from 1800

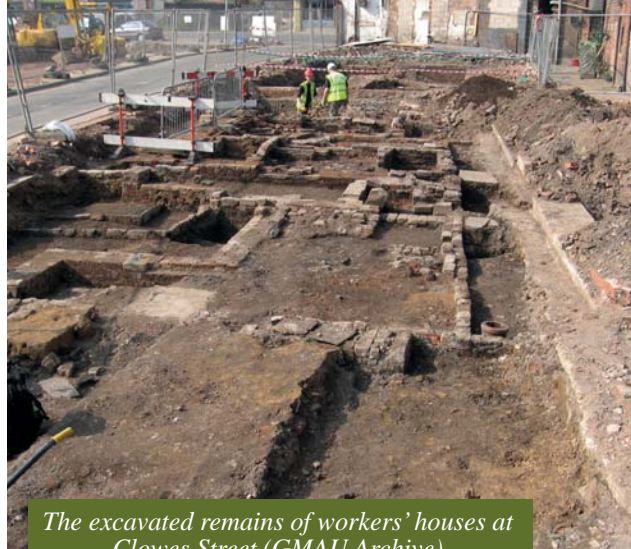
onwards, and several painted fragments were present in the excavated group. Other fragments of nineteenth-century pottery included plain and transfer-printed earthenwares, which date from the 1820s to the twentieth century.



Early nineteenth-century Pearlware feather-edge plates, recovered from One Greengate

Excavated Workers' Housing Across Salford

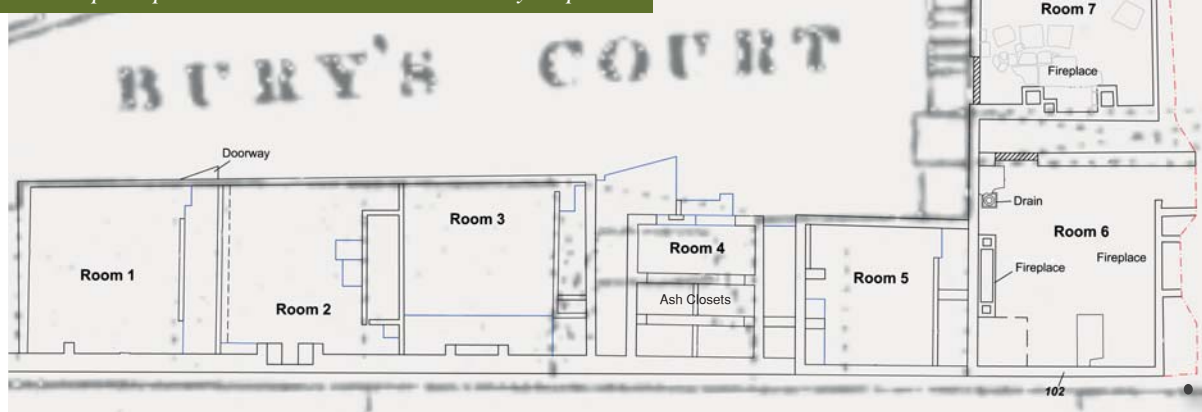
Several of the other archaeological sites excavated across Salford have also uncovered the remains of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century workers' housing. In 2005, the excavation at the junction of Gravel Land and Greengate revealed the fragmentary remains of early nineteenth-century back-to-back houses, and a row of small blind-back houses. The latter dwellings each comprised a single room that measured 12 x 11 ft (3.7 x 3.4 m), with a fireplace built into the side wall. Another interesting group of workers' houses was excavated on Clowes Street at Chapel Wharf, where the remains of part of a small block of four late eighteenth-century back-to-backs were uncovered. These had been accessed via a narrow passage that lay to the rear of Clowes Street, and each contained a fireplace in one corner that connected with a single chimney placed at the centre of the four dwellings.



The excavated remains of workers' houses at Clowes Street (GMAU Archive)

The well-preserved remains of workers' housing were also excavated on Adelphi Street, on the western edge of the nineteenth-century town (*see page 33*). These remains represented three early nineteenth-century double-depth houses that had fronted onto Adelphi Street, and five small blind-back dwellings to their rear. These latter properties fronted a courtyard known as Bury's Court, after Isaac Bury, the owner of the adjacent dye works, and were accessed via a passage running from Adelphi Street.

A plan of the remains of the Adelphi Street workers' houses, superimposed on an 1848 Ordnance Survey map





One of the blind-back houses on Adelphi Street, showing the fireplace on the rear wall

Three of the blind-back houses had single ground-floor rooms, with an average internal space of $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ft (3.9 x 3.8 m). Each room contained a fireplace on the rear wall and evidence for a staircase on the side wall, affording access to the first floor. The other two blind-back properties were smaller. One contained a series of compartments, which represented four ash closets and a washroom, suggesting that this building acted as a communal privy block at ground-floor level, with the first floor perhaps being in use as a dwelling. The other small blind-back house comprised a single room with a fireplace on its side wall, and the remains of a staircase lying opposite, leading to the first floor.

The double-depth houses fronting Adelphi Street each contained cellars, divided into two rooms, which may have been used as separate dwellings. Both rooms were larger than those in the blind-back houses, measuring $15 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ft (4.57 x 4.11 m), and each contained windows, fireplaces and drains, with evidence for washstands and stairs leading to the ground floor of the properties. The remains of the passage from Adelphi Street to Bury's Court, with steps at its northern end, were also uncovered.

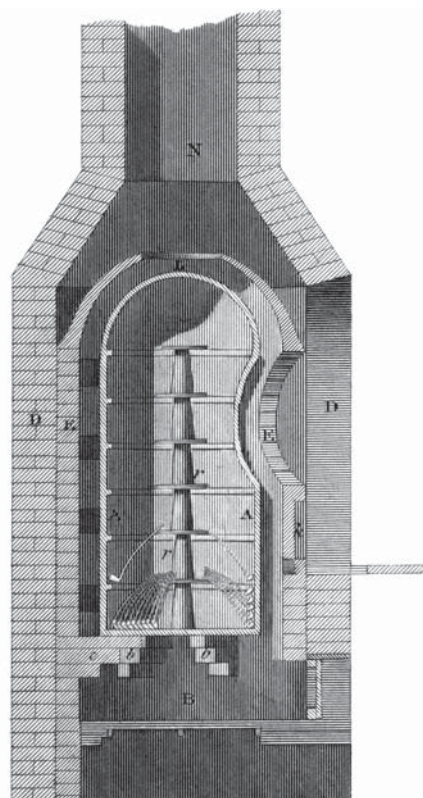


Excavating the cellar of one of the double-depth houses on Adelphi Street, showing the fireplace and the washstand, and the passage separating the cellar from the adjacent property

A large collection of clay tobacco-pipe fragments and associated kiln material was discovered during the excavation of the blind-back houses at Bury's Court. This appeared to have been dumped on the site shortly before the houses had been built, and clearly derived from a workshop where clay pipes had been made. The Manchester and Salford area is known to have been one of the principal manufacturing centres for clay pipes in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and yet surprisingly little is known about the pipe makers or their products. The material recovered from the excavation on Adelphi Street makes an important contribution to an understanding of this significant trade.

The collection included examples of at least 15 different mould types, with decorative motifs including flutes, flowers, foliage and Masonic emblems. Two very unusual types depicted flags, cannon, swords and a crown, with the slogan 'Church and King' moulded on the bowl. All of the pipes seemed to have had long stems, and were finished with green-glazed tips.

The kiln material included a wide range of rolls, straps, wads and sheet, as well as slag laminate from the kiln covering. The pipes and kiln waste probably date to 1820-40, and the marked pipes can be traced to the Griffith family, who appear to have been one of the most important pipe-making families in Salford and Manchester during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Trade directories for the late eighteenth century list William Griffith as a pipe manufacturer, and give his address as Middleton Court in Salford, which lay a short distance to the south of Adelphi Street. Subsequent directories list at least two other William Griffiths, who were probably later generations of the same family.



A muffle kiln of a type that was used in the nineteenth century for firing clay pipes

*From left to right:
Examples of clay-pipe
bowls with a Masonic
design; clay pipe
bowl with the 'Church
and King' motif; slag
lamine from the kiln,
with 'W Griffith' stamp
on the pipe stem*



ARCHAEOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the archaeological investigations described in this booklet were undertaken as part of the planning process. This type of archaeological work is carried out across England by professional archaeologists and is normally funded by developers. Across Salford, the various schemes of archaeological work have been devised in consultation with the archaeological curators for Greater Manchester. At present, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) at the University of Salford provides archaeological planning advice to the ten districts of Greater Manchester; this role was fulfilled previously by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU). The remit of the curators here is to provide planning advice to Salford City Council prior to any new development that might have an impact on buried and/or upstanding archaeological remains. This advice is in accordance with national guidelines, which were first implemented in the early 1990s and are presently covered by the National Planning Policy Framework, introduced in 2012.

*Archaeological work in progress
on the site of One Greengate*





In the case of buried archaeological remains, developer-funded archaeological work usually occurs in several stages. Normally, a desk-based assessment forms the first stage of work, which will be completed on behalf of the developer by an archaeological consultant. This assessment considers the presence and likely survival of any potential archaeological remains in the proposed development area. In order to do this, the assessment examines historical maps, documents, and photographs, and the results of any historical or archaeological work completed in the

vicinity of the proposed development. As part of this process, the Historic Environment Record will also be consulted. This digital record is maintained by GMAAS, and contains details of all known archaeological sites found in Greater Manchester.

If, following the assessment, it is felt that archaeological remains might be present, intrusive investigation is likely to be recommended. This will initially take the form of an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of trial trenches across the areas of archaeological potential identified by the desk-based assessment. The aim of this trenching is to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and, if present, to establish their character, date, and state of preservation.

Depending on the results of the archaeological evaluation, a further phase of archaeological excavation may then be recommended. This focuses on those areas that have been identified by evaluation as having archaeological significance, but which will be unavoidably affected by, or destroyed by, development ground works. It usually involves excavating large, open areas in order to uncover the extent of any significant remains that are present within the development area. During this phase of excavation, all the archaeological remains are recorded and all artefacts are collected. Following excavation, the records and artefacts are ordered, catalogued, analysed, and interpreted. An illustrated excavation report and a site archive are then produced, which are eventually deposited with a local museum, and if the results are archaeologically significant, they will be published.

CONSERVING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT



In addition to the role GMAAS fulfils in securing archaeological interests within the planning system, the promotion of the historic environment, particularly in the areas of long-term care, preservation and enhancement, can fall to district conservation officers. Joe Martin was Conservation Officer for Salford, and had worked for Salford Council for 40 years, at the time of his untimely death in 2010. His work, firstly in Building Control and, from 1993, in Conservation, was fired by his deep passion for the city's heritage, and a commitment to preserve the most important of this heritage for future generations. He had a lovely way about him and was well-regarded by Salfordians, as he always found time to offer expert advice. He was fascinated by archaeology and was always keen to visit excavations taking place in the heart of the city, including all the work described in this booklet. He also took great delight in working with the then Assistant County Archaeologist on rediscovering the historical fabric of the medieval borough of Salford, looking at ways to embed the history and ancient street pattern within regeneration proposals. When the Adelphi Street excavation took place, Joe was particularly excited to visit, as his father had lived in one of the terraced houses, long-since demolished, but surviving as part of the buried archaeological remains. It is to be hoped that, in the future, the public realm of Greengate will reflect the archaeological discoveries made in the early twenty-first century, providing residents, workers and visitors with a sense of place and history. This would have made Joe very proud.

GLOSSARY

✕ BURGAGE	a narrow plot of land within medieval and early post-medieval towns, with a street frontage, that was rented to an individual
✕ CAL BC:	radiocarbon dates that have been calibrated using tree-ring data
✕ CRUCK-FRAME:	a timber frame used to support the superstructure of a post-medieval house. This is formed from a blade or inclined timber, that meets with a similar timber, to create a triangular frame
✕ BLACK DEATH:	one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 75-200 million people, and peaking in Europe in the years 1346-53
✕ FUSTIAN:	strong, twilled cloth, with linen warp and a cotton weft. The term is also used to describe a variety of heavy woven cloth prepared for menswear
✕ HORIZONTAL ENGINE:	a steam engine with a horizontal stroke, used to power nineteenth-century machinery
✕ HORSEPOWER:	a unit of power. It was defined originally to allow the output of steam engines to be measured and compared with the power output of horses. The horsepower was widely adopted to measure the output of piston engines, electric motors and other machinery. Specific definitions vary, although that used most commonly equates one horsepower (1 hp) to 735-46 watts
✕ HUNDRED:	a geographical division used formerly to divide a county into smaller administrative units
✕ MORDANT:	a substance used to fix dyes to fabrics
✕ MORTARIUM:	a Roman ceramic mixing bowl, with grit-roughened interior, in which food was ground or pureed
✕ PORTMOTE:	common name for a medieval town court
✕ POST-AND-TRUSS	common timber-framed building form, where a series of timber posts supported roof trusses. The trusses carried the purlins (horizontal beams) which, in turn, supported the rafters and roof covering
✕ WATER-FRAME	water-powered spinning frame developed by Richard Arkwright

FURTHER READING

- ✧ Bergin, T, Pearce, D N, and Shaw, S (eds), 1989 *Salford: A City and its Past*, Salford
- ✧ Greenall, R L, 2000 *The Making of Victorian Salford*, Lancaster
- ✧ Hampson, C P, 1930 *Salford Through the Ages* (reprinted 1972), Didsbury
- ✧ Hartwell, C, Hyde, M, and Pevsner, N, 2004 *The Buildings of England. Lancashire: Manchester and the South-East*, Yale
- ✧ Roberts, R, 1990 *The Classic Slum: Salford Life in the First Quarter of the Century*, London
- ✧ Williams, M, with Farnie, D A, 1992 *Cotton Mills in Greater Manchester*, Preston

A copy of the detailed excavation report for One Greengate and other unpublished excavation reports are held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, which is maintained by GMAAS

Other books in the *Greater Manchester's Past Revealed* series:

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The archaeological work outlined in this booklet would not have been possible without the efforts of many individuals who worked on the various excavations. A debt of gratitude is therefore extended to all of the staff of OA North engaged in this work, members of the former University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU), who undertook the excavations along Greengate, King Street, and Chapel Wharf, and also to the staff of the former Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU), who worked on the Bull's Head site in the late 1980s. A particular mention must be made of Dr Peter Arrowsmith, who meticulously pieced together the history and archaeology of Salford through a series of valuable archaeological desk-based assessments and excavation reports. Much of his work forms the basis of the historical information within this booklet, particularly in relation to the UMAU sites researched and excavated across Salford.

Historical images of Salford have been reproduced courtesy of the Salford Local History Library and Salford Museum and Art Gallery, whilst GMAAS provided images of the former UMAU and GMAU excavations undertaken across the city.

In memory of Joe Martin (1952-2010), former Conservation Officer for Salford, who played an instrumental part in the preservation of the city's heritage.

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Salford has been an important settlement since the medieval period, with its historic core arranged around the three principal streets of Greengate, Chapel Street and Gravel Lane. It emerged as a key industrial town during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, characterised by its numerous textile mills and finishing works, notable engineering works, and vast areas of workers' houses.

Since the late 1980s, Salford's early remains and those relating to its industrial heritage have been rediscovered through archaeological excavation. This booklet presents the results of these excavations, particularly that on Greengate, carried out by Oxford Archaeology North. This excavation, together with those in the surrounding areas, has provided significant insights into the rich and complex history of this important medieval, post-medieval, and industrial-era settlement.

Front cover: 'A view of Manchester and Salford', painted by John Raphael Isaac in 1859 (courtesy of City of Salford Museums and Art Gallery); inset: Fragment of a Slipware dish dating to c 1690 – c 1730 found on the site of One Greengate

Back cover: An early nineteenth-century lithograph of Salford cross, by John Ralston



£5.00

